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Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabin, 'Arafat, Mubarak Meet in Cairo

Israel's Rabin Arrives

NC0610074593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Oct (MENA)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin arrived in Cairo this morning on a visit to Egypt for a few hours to meet Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi received Rabin upon arrival at the airport.

'Arafat Joins Rabin-Mubarak Talks

NC0610091793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0856 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat joined the round of talks President Husni Mubarak held with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today.

President Mubarak held about an hour of bilateral talks with the Israeli prime minister before 'Arafat joined the meeting.

[In a related report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0902 GMT on 6 October adds the following: "Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held a round of bilateral talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the presidential headquarters in Heliopolis.

["President Mubarak met Rabin and 'Arafat together for 20 minutes before the two held a round of bilateral talks for the first time.

["The Palestinian delegation accompanying 'Arafat and Rabin's delegation joined the talks."]

'Ashrawi Arrives for Talks

NC0610093093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0919 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the official spokeswoman for the Palestinian negotiating delegation at the Arab-Israeli peace talks, arrived in Cairo this morning heading a delegation from the occupied territories.

'Ashrawi is expected to join the talks being held in Cairo between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Discussions Previewed

NC0610102593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, 6 Oct (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council, has stated that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will ask Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo today to stop the Israeli Army's oppressive measures in the occupied territories, such as chasing and detaining the Palestinians there. These measures have yielded negative results for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on a declaration of principles.

Subayh said 'Arafat will reject the Israeli pretext that claims that chasing and tracking down those people who reject the declaration of principles [sentence incomplete as received]. 'Arafat believes there is an Israeli plan to create an intra-Palestinian conflict.

Subayh also noted that 'Arafat and Rabin will today discuss the possibility of speeding up the timeframe set for the agreement.

He said 'Arafat will assert that Israel must release all detainees as quickly as possible, primarily the sick, the elderly, and women who have spent a long time in prison, as part of an Israeli policy to show good intentions.

Informed Palestinian sources noted that the more complicated issue expected to play an important role in the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting is that of the crossings [into Gaza and Jericho]. 'Arafat insists that an Israeli force should not be deployed at these crossings, and certainly not when he enters Gaza and Jericho. The Israeli Government believes there is a need for such forces, especially on the King Husayn Bridge [Allenby], because Israel has no security agreement with Jordan.

The sources said the situation is different regarding the Gaza crossings, where there is a security agreement between Egypt and Israel. So, when the Palestinian leadership wants to enter Gaza and Jericho, it will probably do so through the Gaza crossing.

Rabin Refuses To Shake 'Arafat's Hand

NC0610095693 Paris AFP in English 0935 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, Oct 6 (AFP)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin refused to shake PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's hand in front of the cameras Wednesday [6 October] in the Egyptian capital.

Rabin, 'Arafat and Mubarak were initially seated apart but agreed to move to the same couch.

However Rabin growled "no, no, it's out of the question" when photographers called for them to shake hands.

'Arafat and Mubarak smiled broadly throughout the exchange but Rabin remained stony-faced.

The Israeli leader and 'Arafat were meeting for the first time since their historic handshake at the White House signing ceremony for the Palestinian autonomy deal on September 13.

Rabin Spokesman on Future Talks

NC0610105593 Paris AFP in English 1025 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Report by Barry Parker]

[Excerpts] Cairo, Oct 6 (AFP)—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat held their first talks here Wednesday [6 October] to discuss details of the Palestinian autonomy plan but the Israeli leader refused to repeat their historic public handshake.

"This is a business meeting, a working meeting in order to settle the framework for further negotiations on Gaza and Jericho," Rabin's spokesman told reporters.

"It is time to get down to business," spokesman Gad Ben-Ari said, referring to the October 13 date for Palestinian self rule to begin on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town. [passage omitted]

Ben Ari said the session was needed to sort out the details of implementing the autonomy deal signed in Washington on September 13.

Israel hoped the make-up of both delegations to hammer out the fine print would be decided Wednesday.

"October 13 is still a possible date for the talks which Israel would like to hold in Taba, but that has not yet been agreed," he said.

The tiny Red Sea resort lies just over Israel's border with Egypt. [passage omitted]

There were late-night negotiations between the Israeli embassy and Egyptian officials over the arrangements for the talks.

Gad Ben-Ari said "there was no plan for a joint press conference, that was an Egyptian idea and we have no part in it." [passage omitted]

Rabin Departs 6 Oct

NC0610112593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Oct (MENA)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left Cairo following a visit of several hours during which he met President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Rabin and 'Arafat discussed the steps necessary to implement the Palestinian-Israeli "Gaza-Jericho" agreement.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Adviser Previews 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting

JN0510174993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Sa'id Mu'addi on 5 October, carried within "With The Events" program; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, you are now on your way to Cairo. You met this afternoon with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the eve of the expected meeting tomorrow between Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo. What did you discuss in today's meeting?

[Al-Tibi] I was invited to meet Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to discuss the agenda for the meeting between the two leaders and the topics they will discuss during their meeting.

[Mu'addi] What topics do you expect to be discussed tomorrow during that meeting?

[Al-Tibi] Please allow me not to discuss the details now and leave these topics to be discussed in the meeting.

[Mu'addi] When was this meeting between Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat set?

[Al-Tibi] Three days ago.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, do you pin great hopes on this meeting between Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Tibi] There has to be a working session between the two leaders, especially since recently [words indistinct] on the path of achieving that agreement and the Israeli Army action in Gaza and Qabatiyah to arrest Palestinian youth and storm houses in Gaza and destroy some of them with rockets—all these topics will be discussed in the talks, as well as other topics. This meeting had to be held. This indeed has been arranged and the meeting will take place tomorrow morning.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Ahmad, who took the initiative to hold this meeting?

[Al-Tibi] The Israeli side showed an interest in this meeting, and there was a positive Palestinian response to this interest.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, thank you very much.

[Al-Tibi] Thank you, Sa'id.

'Ashrawi on 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting, Tunis Sessions

JN0510182593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the delegation to the bilateral peace talks with Israel, by Sa'id Mu'addi, carried within "With the Events" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Tomorrow's meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will, undoubtedly, mark another confidence-building measure. What do you think?

['Ashrawi] The meeting will be future-oriented and will seek to remove obstacles and achieve understanding. In any case, confidence-building should be the fruit of practical and tangible actions on the ground, symbolizing good faith and a commitment to the spirit and substance of the PLO-Israel accord.

[Mu'addi] Did you have advance knowledge of the meeting; was it raised in the consultations held in Tunis?

['Ashrawi] The request for the meeting was made while we were in Tunis; President 'Arafat said as much at the meeting.

[Mu'addi] Is the meeting taking place at the official request of the Israeli Government.

['Ashrawi] To my knowledge, yes. The request was made by the Israeli Government, by Mr. Rabin himself.

[Mu'addi] What items are likely to be addressed at the Cairo meeting?

['Ashrawi] I do not know about specifics or about the agenda itself. But, we expect Israel's recent practices to be on the agenda. President 'Arafat was extremely upset by these practices, which signify a lack of commitment to the spirit of the peace process and the accord. Israel is also required to put in place confidence-building measures, including the release of detainees, taking back deportees, and other measures, like ending the closure of Jerusalem. Such measures are true barometers of good faith. There are also issues related to future negotiations to implement the accord.

[Mu'addi] You returned from Amman today, having had talks and consultations with the leadership in Tunis. What stands out as the most important decisions and recommendations of the meetings?

['Ashrawi] They were working sessions to formulate a vision of the mechanisms and to identify the expertise required for continuing the negotiating process and building the infrastructure. We looked at the future political shape of the occupied territories. We also discussed the first decree issued by President 'Arafat on human rights and the autonomous nature of the higher committee for human rights and the need for political echelons to be bound by international charters.

[Mu'addi] What ideas were put forward about the configuration of the authority that will take over in Gaza and Jericho?

['Ashrawi] The authority is indivisible, of course, and it will speak for local and diaspora Palestinians and all the Palestinian territory irrespective of the scale of an Israeli withdrawal. I cannot go into detail. However, we are leaning toward a true merger of the so-called inside and outside [the occupied land] so that a truly representative authority emerges, one that can carry out its responsibilities throughout the occupied territory.

Sources: 'Arafat To Address Knesset in Jerusalem

TA0610083093 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 6 Oct 93 p 3

[Report by 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Excerpt] Knowledgeable Palestinian sources report that PLO headquarters in Tunis has received an invitation from Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres for PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to come and address the Knesset in Jerusalem. Yasir 'Arafat has accepted the invitation. According to the sources, Foreign Minister Peres proposed three alternative dates for 'Arafat's speech, and 'Arafat's visit will take place very soon.

It was also reported that Israel has promised to provide 'Arafat with security personnel during the first six months of his sojourn in Jericho or Gaza. [passage omitted]

Abu-Sharif on Status of Jerusalem, Ties With U.S.

NC0310101693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 1 Oct 93 pp 1, 6

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis by Muhammad Abu-Khudayr and Zaki Abu-Halawah on 30 September]

[Text] [AL-QUDS] Recently, we have heard a number of remarks by Rabin and Peres and by other more moderate Labor Party officials, such as Yosi Beilin, stressing that the Israeli Government will keep united Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and that all it could offer the Palestinians in this sphere would be to facilitate some administrative activities, such as safeguarding the freedom of religious worship or allowing them to run some municipal affairs in their quarters. Doesn't this position on Jerusalem threaten to scuttle the talks on a final settlement before they have even started? What is the PLO official stand on this subject? What are the red lines that cannot be crossed in any negotiations on Jerusalem?

[Abu-Sharif] Jerusalem is the cradle of three religions. It is the first qiblah [direction to which Muslims turn in praying] and home to the third holiest mosque. It is a city of great spiritual and moral significance for Muslims, Christians, and Jews. Jerusalem is a red line that the Palestinians cannot cross because they have been in charge of safeguarding the holy places since Caliph 'Umar.

The Palestinian leadership is insistent on the subject of Jerusalem. It intends to keep this issue alive now and until the end of the final phase. This leadership has been able to secure Israel's agreement to allow the inhabitants of Jerusalem to participate in the upcoming national authority elections, both as candidates and voters. Israel has also agreed to allow the voting to take place in Jerusalem. In addition, the cosponsors of the peace conference fully realize that Palestine and Israel have different views on the subject of Jerusalem and that the issue cannot be settled unilaterally. None of the Israeli statements in this connection are binding, and they have not been approved by the Palestinian side. The final status of Jerusalem and the other occupied territories will be determined later. We adopt the U.S. stand in this connection and consider Jerusalem "occupied." The stands of the Islamic world and the Vatican and the UN resolutions on Jerusalem call for respect for its entity and for not changing its demographic character.

[AL-QUDS] What is your comment on the arrest of the "Black Panther" group in Qabatiyah the day before yesterday and do you believe this will endanger the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Abu-Sharif] We consider the Israeli army's action in Qabatiyah and its arrest of struggler Ahmad 'Awad a violation of the agreement.

[AL-QUDS] There is a contradiction between the Palestinian and Israeli statements on the date of the return of

the Palestinian leadership to the occupied territories. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has said he will return to Jericho within 12 weeks, while Israeli officials, including Rabin and Beilin, have stated that the question of the return of the Palestinian leadership and who will return is subject to negotiations and that this return will not take place before six or seven months. What is your explanation for this contradiction?

[Abu-Sharif] President 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine, is the Palestinian symbol who led the long struggle for freedom and a just and comprehensive peace. He himself led the peace process with Israel. Therefore, it is not within anyone's power to set or not set a date for President 'Arafat's return to his country. The decision will be purely Palestinian and President 'Arafat's return will not be subject to any negotiations. At the appropriate time President 'Arafat will himself determine the date of his return.

[AL-QUDS] The United States has declared its support for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Even though the White House hosted the signing of the agreement and despite Israel's recognition of the PLO as the Palestinian people's representative, the United States has not so far officially recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Where do the U.S.-Palestinian contacts on this issue stand, and what is preventing Washington from issuing an official declaration of recognition when the PLO has in fact fulfilled all the U.S. conditions for restoring the dialogue?

[Abu-Sharif] It is true that there is nothing to prevent the United States from recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. But things do not happen overnight.

The PLO is satisfied with the development in the U.S. stand on the Palestinian issue, as this is bound to strengthen the comprehensive and just peace and to back the Palestinian people in attaining their national and political historic rights through the support for the recent agreement.

There are fruitful consultations now between the PLO and the U.S. Administration to open a Palestinian representation office in Washington. Several Palestinian-U.S. meetings were held at various levels after the agreement. The U.S. Administration decided yesterday to lift the embargo on the PLO and also to contribute to the development of the occupied territories. Therefore, the question of recognition is one of time. They have stressed that de facto recognition took place with the Palestinian president's presence at the White House. We are waiting for de jure recognition soon.

[AL-QUDS] Where do the PLO efforts to hold a dialogue with the Palestinian forces opposed to the agreement stand? In light of the absence of this dialogue, how can the existing differences be prevented from turning into forms of struggle that will negatively affect the internal Palestinian arena?

[Abu-Sharif] We in the Palestinian leadership have not expected to get the full support of all the Palestinian groups affiliated with the PLO. It is only right and proper to have opposition to an agreement, as is the case now with the Israeli right and the other opposition parties. But the various sectors of the Palestinian people have expressed and continue to express their support and backing for the declaration of principles that was signed in Washington.

The PLO called for peace in 1988 in Geneva on the basis and with the backing of the resolutions of our Palestine National Council and national establishments which approved the peace plan with Israel. The agreement did not deviate from the Palestinian policy and principles for reaching a just and comprehensive peace that will ultimately lead to complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and East Jerusalem, which is part of the occupied territories.

As a democratic organization, we have supporters and opponents. Our democratic oasis can take in all the trends and it welcomes all views. We have called and constantly continue to call for national Palestinian unity.

The various sectors of our Palestinian people are very enthusiastic about national unity and they are fully aware of the question of national cohesion under these fateful circumstances. They also do not want to see the existing differences in views turn into any form of conflict that might negatively affect their national achievements.

Bal'awi on PLO Leadership's Meetings, Other Issues

JN0410114793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1945 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Interview with Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member, by radio correspondent Ahmad Birru, carried within "Today's Guest" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Birru] Mr. Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member: The Palestinian leadership and the members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations are continuing their meetings in Tunis in preparation for the PLO Central Council meeting. What are the priorities being discussed?

[Bal'awi] The Palestinian leadership—represented by the PLO Executive Committee—as well as leading Palestinian figures and members of the Palestinian delegation that has been holding talks since Madrid are participating in this meeting, which extended from [words indistinct].

Various topics are being discussed. First, I would rather not say they are studying all aspects of the [Israeli-PLO] agreement, but are in fact studying how to implement the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the ground from all political and practical aspects, whether regarding the committees to be formed, such as the liaison committee, the economic committee, and the committee on receiving authority in the rest of the West Bank, or regarding the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. As known, the implementation of the agreement will begin on 13 October.

Thus, several topics are being discussed. Moreover, the Palestinian leadership's meeting is also discussing defining a formula or political terminology to represent the political responsibility—in the sense of sovereignty—starting in Jericho and Gaza, where the agreement's implementation begins with a full withdrawal, and including the rest of the West Bank, and Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

[Birru] How will the Palestinian police force deal with the parties that will continue the intifadah against occupation?

[Bal'awi] The intifadah is a popular pulse and perception, and not a military force. It is illogical and inconceivable that anyone or any party can take away the breath of the masses in the face of occupation. Thus, as long as occupation continues there will be a popular pulse resisting this occupation. To being with, the intifadah only broke out to resist occupation. Therefore, when this occupation ends—which means Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem, which are one specific territorial jurisdiction as stipulated in the agreement—our people will focus on reconstruction, prosperity, and building their establishments, and also on seriously contributing to the human and regional civilization in a sound political atmosphere.

[Birru] The opponents accuse the PLO of signing secret agreements with Israel, in addition to the declared agreement. Within this context, Israel demands the cancellation of 30 UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian people's rights and Israel's violations of these rights.

[Bal'awi] First, I would like to ask: What is the address of these opponents, and what are they talking about? Why do they speak through statements, deception, and rumors? These opponents are Palestinians who are far away from the leadership. Why do they not attend the continued official Palestinian meetings and reveal to us these alleged secret annexes? WAFA, the Palestinian News Agency, published the text of the agreement and its special addendums. We do not conceal anything. If there is anything hidden, let the opponents publicly reveal it. Let them bring these alleged annexes to the official and legitimate Palestinian leadership where serious and responsible discussions are held. [passage omitted]

[Birru] In a statement to our radio, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said the residents of Jerusalem will vote and run for the local authority elections. Will they vote in Jerusalem, and will Jerusalem be represented in this authority?

[Bal'awi] Yes, there is a decision. Jerusalem was mentioned in both the transitional and final phases. This is a reply to those who said Jerusalem was not included. In the transitional phase, all Jerusalem residents will have a legitimate right to vote in Jerusalem itself and run for the elections. The agreement provides for free and direct political elections. The legal, philosophical, and political meanings of this agreement are that the elections are those of a sovereign authority. Thus, it should not be said that the elections do not have a political dimension.

As for Jerusalem, its residents have the right to vote and run for elections in Jerusalem itself. This is a frank and clear position.

[Birru] What is the fate of the 1948 refugees? Will they be citizens, like other Palestinians, in the future Palestinian state?

[Bal'awi] In principle, every Palestinian is a member of the PLO. The PLO represents the Palestinian people. Wherever the PLO exists, both the Palestinian people and the Palestinian sovereignty will also exist. Every Palestinian will be a citizen in his own state.

The refugee issue is a clear and frank issue. It is stipulated in the agreement, as a basic article, that in the final phase the refugee issue will be discussed according to Resolution 194, which provides for either the right to repatriation or compensation. I firmly believe that the Palestinians who sacrificed their lives, children, blood, and money throughout 50 years cannot sell their land, and will prefer repatriation to anything else.

[Birru] Regarding the Washington conference, held two days ago to support the Palestinian self-rule, did its decisions meet the required minimum response?

[Bal'awi] We followed up this conference, and a PLO delegation attended it. Funds were officially declared and allocated. However, in the PLO's viewpoint, these funds are insufficient and do not meet the Palestinian people's requirements. The conferees themselves and the whole world know that the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories will be at square one when they begin to build their infrastructure and establishments in Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. These funds are insufficient. We will attempt to double these funds whether bilaterally or through serious and persistent work, so we can meet the Palestinian people's numerous requirements. This is because the infrastructure in the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem has been totally destroyed.

[Birru] Thank you, Mr. Hakam Bal'awi.

Fatah's al-Hasan on Opposition to PLO-Israel Accord

JN0210110993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1940 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Interview with Hani al-Hasan, member of Fatah Movement's Central Committee, by Sana' al-Imam in Damascus, carried within "Today's Guest" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Imam] Hani al-Hasan, member of Fatah Movement's Central Committee, which Palestinian factions did you meet with in Damascus? And what steps did you agree on to face the Israeli- Palestinian agreement?

[Al-Hasan] Dr. George Habash [secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] kindly invited me to visit Damascus and to meet with front leaders and other resistance factions. I met with Dr. George Habash and brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary

general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. I had already met with the brothers in Hamas in Amman. We discussed in depth the developments of the current stage. Of course, there is an agreement to confront the Gaza-Jericho agreement, but this confrontation should take the shape of political isolation and not fighting. This means recruiting wide popular and political forces to confront this agreement. There is a consensus that the intra-Palestinian fighting only serves Israeli interests. The question that poses itself is: What to do if the Palestinian police—according to the duties that will be assigned to them and the pledge given to Rabin that they will face those who continue to confront the occupation—chase the Palestinians who will confront the occupation?

[Al-Imam] How do you view the future of the PLO in light of the current division?

[Al-Hasan] Regrettably, in effect, we have an organization that recognizes the agreement. As you known, this agreement is based on the abrogation of the PLO charter, stopping the intifadah, and establishing authority over 3.5 percent of the land of Palestine. There is no guarantee of a future Israeli withdrawal after five years. If the balances of power did not produce an Israeli withdrawal now, they will certainly not do any better in five years. Therefore, what we have is an organization that is committed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement and an organization that is not committed to the agreement. Though the two groups are present within the PLO framework, there is a top-to-bottom division concerning this point. If we look at the actual Gaza-Jericho agreement—given the cancellation of the charter and following the economic integration that leads to a Palestinian economic dependence on the Israelis—we will see that there is harmony between the people of Gaza-Jericho agreement and the Israeli Labor Party's program. On the other hand, the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions call for just and comprehensive peace based on Israel's withdrawal from every grain of sand it occupied in 1967.

This is what the situation really looks like on the ground. I am speaking as a Fatah Central Committee member: The PLO's constitutional bodies have not endorsed the agreement. Eight PLO members out of a membership of 18 is hardly a majority. Then there is the fact that it is does not fall within the prerogatives of the PLO Central Council to discuss an agreement that runs counter to the Charter. Neither does it have the authority to rule on issues that have not been referred to it by the PNC. The Central Council is there to implement the PNC resolutions rather than act as a proxy for it. The Central Council is no substitute for the PNC. We think that the agreement is unconstitutional and illegitimate. There is a real mininformation drive to sell the agreement to the Palestinian public and to mask its real contents. When the Palestinian people grasp the real contents of the agreement, they will join the stronger camp and the proponents of the agreement will be politically sidelined.

[Al-Imam] There has been talk of an organization being set up to replace the PLO. Assuming such an option is in the cards, where will the money to finance the plan come from?

[Al-Hasan] I agreed with [dissident Palestinian] brothers in Damascus and popular forces in Jordan that it will be a blunder to set up an alternative PLO. Let whoever wants to quit the PLO do so and whoever wants to quit Fatah do so. Fatah and the PLO are here to stay. It is the problem of those who adopted a joint program with the Israeli Labor Party. Brothers in the PLO will join hands with popular forces and national figures and set up a national conference to look at the new fealties affecting the Palestinian people. For example, for Palestinians who were displaced in 1948, this agreement demolishes their ambitions and adds up to a conspiracy against them. The Palestinian people are thus right to call a national conference to debate their affairs. Take, for example, the meetings held recently in New York to consider amending 30 UN resolutions, a matter the Palestinians are entitled to consider. If they contend there are no secret annexes, what are we to make of the possibility of 30 UN resolutions being revoked? The public agreement has no such provisions. There are secret agreements some of which are being implemented in New York. Gadi Ya'aqobi, Israel's UN ambassador, has said that he wants the term inalienable Palestinian rights struck from all resolutions. In his assessment, the mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO has canceled the Palestinians' right to bring up the question of their inalienable rights. We have the right to call a national conference to debate all these things.

[Al-Imam] Mr. Hani al-Hasan: Being an opponent of the agreement, what are the means to foil it, in your opinion?

[Al-Hasan] Time will prove that the agreement will be foiled because the people will expose the agreement and because the agreement will not achieve the aspirations of the Palestinian people. For example, you remember how people applauded Madrid. After Madrid, I wrote an article headlined "The Return to the Roots," in which I said this formula will not produce anything national. A few months after Madrid ended, its support faded.

Today, we are also living a fabricated celebration on the occasion of the agreement. The Palestinians, however, will discover many things. They, for example, say that Jerusalem residents will participate in the elections—nominating and voting. Jerusalem residents will discover, however, that they will nominate themselves, but not to represent Jerusalem. I challenge anyone who says the Israelis will accept any Palestinian who nominates himself to represent Jerusalem. Therefore, the Palestinians who will nominate himself to represent another country is practically agreeing that Jerusalem is not for him. The Palestinians will discover that the legislation of the elected council will only be in accordance with the powers given by the military government. This council will not pass legislation on any issue it wants.

Therefore, we should build a popular movement through the political forces among which there are no boundaries.

We must continue with the militant plan, which, without any doubt, is the path. They want to give the Palestinians money to forget his homeland and to become preoccupied with things other than the struggle operations. I am confident that the Palestinian people know how to take money and build an economy, but at the same time, they will not forget their homeland.

The future will tell us whether those who sign the agreement or we were right.

[Al-Imam] Thank you.

'Abd-al-Shafi To Hold Talks With Opposition in Amman

JN0610090693 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Oct 93 pp 1, 20

[By Aman al-Sa'ih]

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, has stressed the need to find a unified and firm Palestinian stand to confront the negative situation which resulted from the Israel-PLO agreement on a declaration of principles. He said that this should be done by forming a Palestinian national front that can deal with all the current circumstances.

In an interview with AL-DUSTUR on his return from the recent Palestinian leadership meeting in Tunis—the text of which will be published tomorrow—Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the Tunis talks focused on the formation of committees for the next stage and coordination between the delegation from inside the occupied territories and the PLO in order to discuss the details of self-rule and measures for the transfer of authority.

Regarding Palestinian opposition to the agreement, Dr. 'Abd-al- Shafi said that he will hold direct talks with the opposition forces in Amman within the next few days, stressing the need to unify Palestinian ranks.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi denounced the violence and terrorism by the Israeli army against the people of the West bank and Gaza Strip. He said that these practices express the bad intentions of the Israeli occupation.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi reaffirmed that during their meeting in Cairo today, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will discuss such practices and details regarding procedures for the next stage.

Urges Unity To Recover Rights

PM0610090693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Oct 93 p 2

[Report on interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the delegation to the peace negotiations, by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] Tunis—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the negotiating Palestinian delegation, has said that he is one of those opposed to the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement, but not in the terms of the opposition represented by the factions inside or outside the PLO. He added: "If I had been given the opportunity to express my opinion before its signing, I would have opposed it as a whole and in detail."

'Abd-al-Shafi, who spoke to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the sidelines of the Palestinian leadership meetings in Tunis, emphasized that he does not want to take up any official responsibilities, stressing that his only concern now is to bring views closer between the leadership and the opposition in order to overcome the negative aspects of this agreement, which has made the achievement of our national aims more difficult than before.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation in Washington, urged the Palestinians—leadership and opposition—to recover Palestinian rights from the situation resulting from signing the declaration of principles between Israel and the PLO. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: I can only describe this situation as bad.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi added in an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, with its negative and positive aspects, has become a reality. However, it remains an agreement of principles, not a peace agreement—which means that we still have the opportunity to firmly confront our responsibilities to safeguard the Palestinian people's inalienable rights to self-determination and to build an independent political entity and to consolidate the refugees' rights in accordance with the stipulations of UN resolutions.

'Abd-al-Shafi emphasized that, although the agreement involved serious concessions, it does not mean that we should surrender or concede our right to Jerusalem and to establish an independent Palestinian state.

Asked about the most important of these concessions, he said that the negative aspects of the agreement make it much more difficult for us to achieve our national aims. Because our acceptance of this agreement causes Israel to be more intransigent and to defy our natural rights. For example, these concessions make the question of salvaging Jerusalem and achieving an independent state more difficult than before. The agreement also represents a concession in relation to the settlement issue and Israel's claim that it is not in an occupation position. So the agreement tacitly agrees that there are two independent entities in the occupied territories: the Israeli entity represented by the settlements and the settlers and the Palestinians' entity.

This places difficulties and obstacles in the way of the independent Palestinian state option and our right to Jerusalem.

'Abd-al-Shafi added that there are, however, positive points in the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, as Israel—for the first time—officially recognizes the Palestinian people and acknowledges that they have legitimate political rights—an important point which has a positive significance.

'Abd-al-Shafi believes that the important thing after the signing of the agreement and the reactions which —at least

ostensibly—have mostly been supportive of the agreement is that we are now faced with a reality that is officially binding on us.

He said: I believe that the soundest way to tackle this difficult reality is for the Palestinians—leadership and opposition—to unite to recover Palestinian rights in full.

Asked about his position on the agreement, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: I am one of those opposed to this agreement, but not in the terms of the opposition represented in the Palestinian factions inside or outside the PLO, because I personally do not belong to any partisan organization. I have always been—and am still—independent. So I am not satisfied with the agreement. And if I had been given the opportunity to express my opinion of it before its signing, I would have opposed it as a whole and in detail.

Incidentally, I had no knowledge of the agreement. We were told of it only when I was on my way to the 11th round of negotiations. I was told then that the agreement had been initialed and become a reality.

On the truth of what has been reported, namely that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is going to quit the world of politics and devote his time to his family affairs, he said: "Actually I have no desire to take up any official responsibilities. My only concern now is to work to bring views closer between the leadership and the opposition through the democratic method. Because I cannot see any hope of us overcoming the negative aspects of this agreement and moving toward achieving our demands for self-determination and an independent state except through a unified Palestinian position. This is my preoccupation at present. It is my only path, which, as I said, is to unite Palestinian ranks on a sound democratic and organizational basis, in order to move resolutely toward a just peace in accordance with our natural rights."

Asked whether he will be among the figures to be included in the formation of the Palestine Central Council, he said: "As I said earlier, I have no desire to have an official role in these circumstances."

Asked about the possibility of the situation exploding among the Palestinians inside, 'Abd-al-Shafi said at the end of the interview: "I personally denounce any use of violence by any quarter, whatever it is. Because violence will never be in our interests and the Palestinian people's interests, but only in Israel's interests." He added: "I am satisfied that oppositionist quarters have adhered to a responsible position by announcing their refusal to resort to violence. On the whole, I feel that they are acting responsibly—which is a positive position in this difficult period."

Fatah Opposition Refuses Invitation to Tehran Forum

PM05101155293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Oct 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Opposition in Fatah Turns Down Invitation To Meet in Tehran To Form Alternative Organization"]

[Text] London, Political Studies Center—Leading Fatah Central Committee members regarded as part of the opposition following their statements against the recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement have turned down an Iranian invitation to attend a meeting expected to be held in Tehran next Thursday to set up an alternative to the PLO.

A senior Fatah official, who asked to remain anonymous, has said that the Damascus-based Palestinian organizations had informed Fatah Central Committee hardliners of the Iranian invitation in question, and that they had decided to reject this invitation and conduct their opposition within the PLO framework.

It is noteworthy that the hardliners opposed to the recent agreement in the Fatah leadership include Hani al-Hasan, 'Abbas Zaki, Muhammad Jihad (Abu-Jihad), Sakhr Habash (Abu-Nizar), Khalid al-Hasan, and a number of members of the movement's Revolutionary Council. Hani al-Hasan, who is the most rigid of this group, visited Damascus recently and held dialogues with officials of the 10 rejectionist factions and with some senior Syrian officials to decide what can be done after what has happened.

According to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information, Hani al-Hasan, who returned to Amman two days ago, rejected the idea of setting up an alternative organization to the PLO. He also expressed opposition to the Iranian invitation in question. The information says that the rejectionist factions disagree over the question of establishing an alternative to the present organization. While the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] and the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] are opposed to this idea, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, which are close to Tehran, overwhelmingly support that orientation, supported by the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine]-General Command led by Ahmad Jibril.

According to the information, Syria declined to host the meeting, which was scheduled to be held in Damascus last Friday—which prompted the enthusiasts to choose Tehran and send invitations to the parties in the Iranian Government's name.

PLO Official Calls For Action Against Israel

JN05101111793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Oct 93 p 29

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpt] 'Abbas Zaki, secretary of the Higher Committee of the Intifadah and member of the PLO Executive Committee [title as published], has called on the forces that are still in the national trench to go underground in order to safeguard the future of our Arab nation and its central cause and to perpetuate the conflict with Israel. He added: We want peace that is in the interest of two parties, not peace imposed by a strong party on a weak one.

Zaki reiterated his absolute rejection of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He said: The agreement means putting an end to the demands for Palestinian rights and beginning

a stage in which the Palestinians will be separated from their rights, will, and dignity and deprived of their weapons.

He said: The agreement is supported by superpowers, an unknown majority, and dominant individuals [in the PLO], and rejected by nationalists who have no presence at this stage in which nationalism is retreating. He added that the agreement can only be foiled by the Palestinians themselves.

Zaki noted that his participation in the Palestine National Council session that will be held on 10 October will be decided in light of the results of the Fatah Central Committee's meeting, which precedes the PLO Central Council's meeting. He said that he has not received the agenda of the meetings because of the lack of internal life within the Palestinian institutions.

He added that the convening of the PLO Central Council has obstructed the scheduled meeting and dialogue between Fatah and Hamas. He said that the repressive Israeli measures in Gaza and the West Bank are evidence of Hamas' credibility in its militant struggle. He added: Hamas reminds me of the feelings of the Palestinian people who supported Fatah when it was facing Israeli repression alone. [passage omitted]

Factions Issue Statement Opposing Gaza-Jericho

JN0510204493 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Oct 93

["Press release" issued by the 10 factions opposed to participation in peace talks; place and date not given]

[Text] The poisonous fruits of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement have begun to appear. A few days ago, the Zionist occupation forces began a ferocious campaign against our people in the occupied homeland, particularly in Gaza camps and towns. The campaign is an assault of murders, arrests, and manhunts against hundreds of intifadah heroes. It is directed principally against members of nationalist and Islamic resistance, and against all those who resisted occupation in the past. It is accompanied by operations to destroy houses, harass citizens, and terrorize them into to accepting the self-rule stipulated by the ill-fated agreement.

With the voices of false denunciation they raise, the conspiratorial cliques are trying to deceive our people by alleging that the occupation authorities' actions violate the agreement. The Zionists clearly react by saying that their acts of murder, destruction, and suppression are in line of the clauses of security cooperation and coordination stipulated by the agreement. The Zionists also say that these actions are aimed at helping the conspiratorial clique and its tools of oppression, particularly the police force that is being prepared to tighten the clique's grip on the areas under the control of the self-rule authority, after striking the groups that may constitute a threat to it. This means that it is paving the way to imposing its control over citizens in these areas.

On another level, and in implementation of the economic annexes of the agreement that the 'Arafat clique signed with the Zionists and the subsequent agreement signed by the Jordanian regime, the U.S. President patronized the public meeting between Prince Hasan, the crown prince of the Jordanian regime, and Shim'on Peres, the foreign minister of the Zionist entity. During that meeting, it was announced that a joint economic committee would be set up to join the 'Arafat-Zionist economic committee to form the nucleus of the Arab-Zionist economic alliance that would enable the Zionists to penetrate the Arab homeland and tighten their grip on its resources.

These serious products of the capitulationist agreements with the Zionist invaders dictate that our Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim masses, as well as the Arab and Islamic states opposing the capitulation to the dictates of the enemies, should pool their resources and begin to confront the humiliating agreements and all of their results. They should also put their full weight behind the effort to foil the Gaza-Jericho First Agreement, which is a manifestation of capitulation to the plot to control the region and enslave and humiliate its people.

As they extend greetings of pride and admiration to our people's valiant intifadah and its heroes, who are dealing fatal blows to the occupiers, the 10 Palestinian factions urge our people to escalate their struggle to foil the agreement of subjugation, the self-rule, or the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

[Signed] The 10 Palestinian factions

PFLP-GC's Jibril Views Mideast Peace, 'Arafat

AU0410145193 Vienna PROFIL in German 4 Oct 93 pp 64-66

[Interview with Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, by Alan George in Damascus; date not given: "Let the Jews Go Where They Come From"]

[Text] [George] Did you really threaten death to 'Arafat, as has been reported?

[Jibril] I said that 'Arafat would suffer the same fate as al-Sadat. I added: Al-Sadat was assassinated, even though he brought the Sinai back to the Egyptians in the Camp David agreement. 'Arafat has got nothing. He recognized Israel and its right of existence, and he said that war against Israel is a sort of terrorism that has to be stopped. In his letter of recognition to Rabin on 8 September, he promised he would silence the opponents of the agreement. I said that 'Arafat would be punished for it because he has brought nothing for the Palestinians—neither the right of self-determination, nor the Palestinian refugees' right to return. There is no statement on the part of Israel saying that it will remove the settlements that have been built in the West Bank and Gaza since 1967. Jerusalem's future has been totally left in the dark. I said that 'Arafat will be killed by a child or a youth of the intifadah or by the wife or mother of one of the martyrs.

[George] But isn't the agreement between the PLO and Israel legitimate simply in that it envisages elections?

[Jibril] It is not the agreement that will be put to the vote. The elections are only to decide who will implement the agreement; they do not envisage a rejection.

[George] Couldn't the people express their No by boycotting the elections?

[Jibril] Even if only a small percentage were to go to the polls, one will find pretexts. One will, for instance, say that the people were threatened. We have said from the start that Palestinians in and outside the West Bank and Gaza should vote on the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement—prior to the signing. Such a plebiscite would have been technically possible. I am convinced that no more than 10 percent would have agreed to the agreement. How can all those developed and civilized Western countries accept that such an unfair agreement is imposed upon our people. Where is the democracy that you in the West praise so much?

[George] Many Palestinians are aware of the risks, but they feel that finally something is moving. The Palestinian issue is at least on the agenda now.

[Jibril] The Israelis have two problems—a tactical and a strategic one. For 44 years, the Zionist entity has waged war with its Arab neighbors. I do not deny that Israel has easily won some of the wars. But they had to pay a high price for the war in 1973 and the invasion of Lebanon in 1982. In some wars against the Arab armies, the Israelis won because of their technological superiority. However, for six years, during the intifadah, they could not use the sophisticated weapons that have been supplied by the West. They could not prevent an individual Palestinian from stabbing an individual Israeli to death. All this wonderful combat gear has not hindered the Palestinian woman who takes a kitchen knife, leaves her children at home, goes into the street, and injures or kills an Israeli soldier before she is killed herself.

[George] That would be the tactical problem that you mean. What is the strategic one?

[Jibril] Look, the Arab nation—more than 200 million people now—is opposed to the Zionist state. The Camp David agreement was concluded 13 years ago, but has Egypt really normalized relations with Israel? Can Israelis walk in the streets of Cairo or Alexandria without being protected by Egyptian security services? The Islamic fundamentalists in Egypt have condemned the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement. Even the liberal Islamists of the Muslim Brothers say No. The Egyptian nationalists and Nasirists are also opposed.

[George] So what follows?

[Jibril] The Israeli existence in Palestine, which in the Balfour Declaration of 1917....

[George] ...In which London promised the Jews to help them set up a national homestead in Palestine....

[Jibril] ...Yes, this Israeli existence in Palestine is seriously jeopardized. Our Palestinian people, the Arab and Islamic nation are not exhausted. They offer untiring resistance. However, the young generation in Israel is different from the generation of the founders. Now their soldiers run away when they face real confrontation. They are as fearful as women, and contrary to them, our young Palestinians and Arabs have lost their fear of the Israelis.

[George] So the Israelis concluded the agreement with the PLO out of weakness?

[Jibril] Rabin feels that the snowball is becoming an avalanche. He wanted a recess, and he got it. He uses 'Arafat as a policeman. An Arab proverb says that he who has a cook does not have to get his fingers dirty. 'Arafat will cook, Rabin will look on and will perhaps even eat. Rabin has lost nothing. He says: "I give you a very limited self-administration in Gaza and Jericho. This is a test. If you pass it, if you destroy the dissidents in your own ranks and protect the Israeli settlers, we will see how things will continue." He can tell 'Arafat at any time: "I am sorry, you did not pass the test. You must go, the Israeli Army will stay." I am asking myself, what else can 'Arafat do in this situation but yield to the Israeli demands.

[George] If I see it correctly, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] intends to continue the armed struggle and Intifadah.

[Jibril] Exactly.

[George] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said recently: "I tell all those who sow discord, intolerance, and violence: the United States, its friends and allies will take the necessary steps to make you fail."

[Jibril] This is undoubtedly an example of American democracy. We know very well that what the U.S. Government says about human rights and democracy, is the greatest lie of this century.

[George] Is your goal still the total liberation of Palestine?

[Jibril] We will not accept any solution, unless it leads to the return of all Palestinian refugees. We are not responsible for the fact that the Jews who now live in our houses and on our soil were brought here by the Western world. The Western Jews should go back to where they come from. We are not opposed to the Oriental Jews who stem from the Middle East staying in the region. We will advise them to return to Morocco, Iraq, and so forth.

[George] Do you consider this a realistic prospect?

[Jibril] Without such a solution, there will be no peace. The situation can calm down for several months or years. But this does not mean that there is peace in the region. You in the West do not understand the ties between Arabs and Palestinians. You believe the Palestinians are different from the Iraqis, the Jordanians, or the Syrians. You should not believe that 'Arafat will succeed in taking the Palestinians out of their Arab connection. I do not exaggerate: Should war be declared to liberate Palestine, millions of Arabs and Muslims who would be ready to go to war without pay would register.

[George] In practice, things look different. If Syria and Lebanon sign a peace agreement with Israel, it will be difficult to continue the armed struggle. Damascus and Beirut would suppress such activities.

[Jibril] We, the PFLP-GC, are a mass movement. It is true that we have received some financial and material support in the past 28 years—offices, radio transmitters, military training. But all this is not of essential importance. If we were to lose all this, we will live in the Palestinian camps among the Arab masses. But Rabin's dream of a normalization with Greater Syria (Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon) is just a dream. The people in Greater Syria would never permit an Israeli to walk in their streets. A handshake between Rabin and Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad is impossible. It is also inconceivable for the Israeli flag to fly over the capital city of the Umayyads, over Salah-al-Din's city....

[George] ... You mean Damascus, the seat of the Caliphate of the Dynasty of the Umayyads in the eighth century, the city in which that Arab general, Salah-al-Din, resided who in the Middle Ages drove the crusaders out of the region....

[Jibril] Yes, I believe that al-Asad would rather die than do such things.

[George] Your organization is known to be Marxist or at least socialist. It is surprising to hear you repeatedly quote Islam. Where is the no small Christian part of the Arabs?

[Jibril] We are above all a nationalist and progressive movement, but the spirit of Islam forms its foundation. Islam is not only a historic or religions phenomenon, but also an ethos. The Arab Christians do not reject Islamic reality.

[George] There are speculations in the West that your organization, along with Iran, was involved in the Lockerbie bomb affair. What do you say?

[Jibril] We hate the U.S. governments because they have treated us and the peoples in the Third World so very badly. We are guided by moral principles, which forbid us to violate innocent civilians. We would wish to see the U.S. governments have just a fraction of our morality. They kill hundreds of Somalis—all of them civilians, women, children—only because they suspect them of having arms. They downed an Iranian Airbus, and then they said: we are sorry, it was a technical defect. The United States killed hundreds of Libyans when they attacked the country on a pretext. You can ask the British Secret Service MI-6 whether anyone from among our group has ever been arrested for killing British citizens. We never did such a thing. One of our cells was arrested in Germany in 1988 (bombs with a barometer fuse were found that were obviously intended for use against civilian aircraft—editorial board). The people of this cell planned to send weapons to Palestine by ship via Haifa. When the United States bombed Libyan cities we were very angry. The leader of the cell in Germany decided totally on his own to attack U.S. soldiers. Our target were military trains commuting between the U.S. bases in Germany. (Two members of the group, 'Abd-al-Fatah Ghadfar and cell leader Hafiz Qasim Dalqamuni, were imprisoned in Germany for attacks on such trains—editorial board) But the barometer bombs can also be used on the ground. They detonate when a certain altitude has been reached. Specialists can confirm this to you.

[George] What did you feel when the cell leader decided to attack the U.S. trains, without informing or asking you?

[Jibril] We are in a people's revolution. There are sometimes strong feelings. Our combatants are not robots that you can switch on or off. Nor are we an omnipotent government. When he saw the bombing of Tripoli, he wanted revenge. But what was clear was that no civilians should be injured. That is how it was. The cell leader was guided by moral values.

Algeria

Foreign Minister Dembri Views UNGA Meeting

LD0510214893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] A few days ago the UN General Assembly meeting in New York got under way. Algeria's attendance was strong at the UN gathering because the Algerian delegation was led by Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri. In addition to the participation in the work of the Assembly, Algerian diplomacy made several moves. Mohamed Salah Dembri explained these moves to Algerian TV in an interview conducted by APS correspondent Nasir Mhala:

[Begin recording] [Mhala] Today we have with us outside the UN headquarters in New York Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri. We will ask him the first question on behalf of Algerian TV and APS: Mr. Minister' you had intense contacts with a large number of leaders of delegations. What were the results of these talks?

[Dembri] That is correct, because the 48th session of the UN General Assembly this year has special importance, as the agenda contains 162 issues. This indicates first, that the world has changed, and that there is a will of the international community to realize harmony with the new world order. The Algerian delegation had a three-point strategy. The first is the consolidation of Algeria's status in the world, the second is to explain the political and economic reforms currently being implemented in Algeria, and third is to participate in the general concept of the new world order.

Within this framework, the Algerian delegation had more than 50 meetings at bilateral or regional levels [with other delegations]. We also had several talks, especially with the UN secretary general, the Arab League secretary general, and the AMU [Arab Maghreb Union] secretary general, as well as the UN General Assembly chairman.

[Mhala] But the main axes—the results of these meetings?

[Dembri] First, with regard to the current situation in our country, there was great understanding of the program and the methods of action being used. With regard to the economic reforms there was also great understanding to the efforts being made. Everyone we contacted promised us encouragement and support. [end recording]

FIS Spokesman on Mediation, Other Issues

NC0410163593 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 27 Sep 93 pp 1, 11

[Report by Sami Kulayb from Paris]

[Text] Rabah Kebir, official spokesman of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] said that "FIS has nothing to do with the assassination of French engineers in Algeria." In an interview with AL-SAFIR, Kebir hinted at international mediation between the Islamists and the authorities, denying that Talib Ibrahimi is behind the mediation. Kebir reiterated that former Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah, who was recently assassinated, had contacts with the Islamists. He ruled out the possibility of an alliance between Hocine Ait Ahmed [leader of the Socialist Forces Front] and the Army.

Rabah Kebir, who currently lives in Germany and has applied for political asylum there, was detained and later released by the German authorities. He is the only Islamic leader that is still actively propagating FIS' views through statements that he releases at varying intervals and that get distributed in Europe and Algeria despite the high risk to those distributing these statements.

Kebir spoke first about the circumstances of his arrest and subsequent release in Germany. He said: "Actually, my arrest was a result of many factors. Or, let us say that it took place as a result of a plot hatched by certain quarters that are hard to pinpoint. But despite everything, Germany is a democratic country that respects freedoms and has an independent justice system. The German judiciary does not take political orders, but acts according to the documents and legal files at its disposal. That judiciary asked Algeria to provide evidence against me to back the request filed by Algerian authorities for my extradition. But these authorities sent back a letter containing no legal evidence, so I was released. I have applied for political asylum and the competent authorities are still examining my request. So, I am here as an asylum seeker."

Having talked about Germany, we discussed the assassination of Frenchmen early last week by unknown assailants in Algeria. Kebir denied any FIS involvement "whatsoever with this operation. What happened does not fit into the FIS strategy, namely, that the battle is one between those who usurped the people's decision and the defenders of the people. The battle is not between the Islamists and the outside world. FIS would not benefit from striking at the interests of other countries. On the contrary, we believe in having close relations among nations, including the French. We believe that some, but not all, Algerian officials wish to confuse the situation every now and then. The assassination of the Frenchmen must be seen in this light."

Kebir then spoke about France's role concerning the developments in his country. He said: "We believe that the role of France, particularly the statements made by Foreign Minister Alain Juppe are not particularly helpful in terms of promoting relations between our two peoples. No country that respects democracy, justice, and freedom of thought and expression should seek to deprive another nation of these valuable principles. No country should deny others the very rights that are at the core of its political life. Our people have selected their representatives. It is not in France's interest to support a military coup against our people. What happened at home was a dictatorial coup. What can Paris gain from backing it? It is an action against democracy."

Kebir said that the Europeans have tightened their control on Islamists abroad, emphasizing that "they are making our work more difficult although our work is not political." However, he explained that "our work is not difficult

because it is mostly concentrated at home. But we regret what is happening abroad. We ask these states to accept for the Algerian people what they accept for their own people."

Kebir agreed that the arrival of the French right to power has caused some changes in France's attitude toward Algeria. He said "the French authorities have banned the FIS publication. However, we believe that the French statements issued every now and then do not express the true French policy. There is a conviction in France that the arrival of Islamists to power in Algeria is inevitable."

Kebir said: We believe the West's hostility to the Algerian people's interest is not based on facts or correct convictions. It is intended to show that these states are adopting a certain attitude. Banning publications does not affect our activity. The means of communications are many. There is the fax.

While heaping praise on the German justice system, Kebir cast doubt on the justice of the Algerian regime and courts. Asked whether FIS was responsible for the assassination of Merbah, he said: The investigations that are being conducted into the assassination of Merbah are similar to those investigations that are being conducted into the assassination of Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council. I repeat that the Islamists had no interest in killing a person who had left power time ago. I ask: Why should the Islamists kill him if there were no hostilities between us? Some might say he did not agree with the Islamists when he was in power. But the FIS also did not exist then.

Kebir confirmed the information that there were contacts between Merbah and Abbassi Madani before the latter entered prison. He said: It is true he had relations with Shaykh 'Abbassi Madani. Although we disagreed on the methods of work, our ideas were close. Merbah sought national reconciliation. The regime did not want such a reconciliation.

Asked if such contacts continued after the imprisonment of FIS leaders, Kebir said: "Direct contacts with the FIS leadership were not possible. Contacts between Merbah and the Islamists were held at the grass-roots level in Algeria and abroad. Some shaykhs have also been contacted, but always at a low level."

The FIS spokesman said that "Merbah possessed very important information from his past positions in authority, the authority of the Army. He led the first multi-party government and was a senior Army commander. His assassination, therefore, must be viewed from this angle. It must be said here that some extremely radical generals in the Army are urging the regime to attack the people. Some generals are less radical, but undoubtedly, the more radical within the Army feared those who could threaten their interests, Like Kasdi Merbah."

When Kebir was told that Algeria is heading toward a painful path and blind alley because both the Islamists and the government are adopting hardline positions, and that tragedy is affecting the peaceful people, the Islamic official returned to the usual FIS argument: "The battle is between a group that usurped the people's decision and a people trying to stick to their options and who are unable to remain silent, a people that expressed their opinion through elections. People have faced only violence. The country, unfortunately, is on the verge of collapse. The government has been saying that it is seeking an economic solution and that politics comes next. But it neither resolved the economic crisis nor found a path for a political solution. The government tried to buy people through the economy, but we said then, and we say now, that the political crisis needs to be fully eradicated. We believe that the regime, therefore, must take initiatives, and that these must not be based on contacts between the government and the parties that the government invites every now and then. The problem is not with those parties and societies. The sun cannot be blocked with a net: There is the government on one side and the FIS on the other. The regime is breaking off all means of contacts, and has recently arrested Brother Uqbah Madani, son of Shaykh 'Abbassi Madani, although he has never been involved in politics, even when the FIS was able to operate. By doing that, the regime meant to isolate Shaykh Madani. So I emphasize that we hear about contacts with FIS shaykhs only from news agencies."

Turning to reports on mediation being undertaken by former Foreign Minister Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi [name as published], the Islamic official denied the existence of such mediation. He added: "We respect Talib Ibrahimi, but we have nothing to indicate that such mediation exists."

Regarding international mediations that seek to establish a dialogue between the FIS and the authority, he said: "So far, we have been hearing of a nice breeze blowing through trees [sentence as published], and we hope for the best."

However, it seems that the FIS has no clear vision how the good offices could lead to positive results. Kebir says that the boundaries of the dialogue are known and require "for our part that we certainly do not sacrifice the interests of Algeria and the interests of Islam. Within the framework of these two basic issues, work could be done. France colonized Algeria for 132 years, but when De Gaulle was convinced of the need to find a solution, he found one."

While the Algerian authorities stipulate that the FIS leaders publicly renounce terrorism in order for them to be released, Kebir says that "the issue is more philosophical than realistic. What does the talk about terrorism mean? Do they mean by terrorism the people's response to what the regime is doing? We have said before, and we repeat it now, that when the violence by the authority stops, the others' response will stop."

Turning to the role of Hocine Ait Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front, who is also abroad moving between Switzerland and France, and whether reports that there is a possibility of establishing an alliance between the military establishment and Ait Ahmed are true, Kebir said: "What I know about Ait Ahmed, despite our political differences, is that he is a seasoned politician, and I do not think he could step onto such dangerous ground."

Kebir stressed that there are divisions within the army, citing as an example the resignation of Khaled Nezzar from the Defense Ministry. He noted that there are some people "in the army who do not accept the oppression of the people. People from the army fall victim every day. Even some of the senior generals realize that things cannot continue the way they are now. So, a struggle exists, and it is neither in the interest of the army nor the FIS to have a struggle among the people of the same homeland. For this reason, we have demanded that the army should be a pillar of the country so that it may not turn into a militia and so that things may not turn into a guerrilla war."

Kebir denied that Abbassi Madani is ready to make concessions without agreement with the rest of the FIS leaders. He said: "What is being said in this regard is mere talk. Shaykh Madani could not do anything without full agreement with the other leaders, chief among them [FIS deputy leader] Ali Belhadj. It is true that each of them has his own style, but their positions are identical and principled." He added: "When I was in Algeria, they used to say that I am a moderate and not a hardliner, but when I refused to go along with the authority, I became a hardliner and was pursued."

'Armed Islamic Group' Claims Attack on Jijel Barracks

PM0410111493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Oct 93 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "More Escalation Expected; Madani Moved to Sirkaji Prison"]

[Excerpt] Algiers, AL-HAYAH—The security situation in Algeria has deteriorated dramatically over the past 48 hours amidst information that the Islamic armed groups intend to launch "major" operations beginning Sunday [3 October], the anniversary of the October 1988 incidents. The escalation coincides with the security authorities' transfer of Sheikh 'Abbas Madani, leader of the (dissolved) Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], from Blida prison to Sirkaji prison in the capital. Algerian sources contacted from London say that the Jijel barracks east of the country was the target of a big attack two days ago and that a number of people were killed.

In London, AL-HAYAH yesterday received a statement signed by the "Armed Islamic Group" stating that one of its units attacked the central barracks in Jijel province Wednesday-Thursday night, killing an intelligence sergeant, and that it captured a number of military personnel and seized machineguns and some communication equipment.

It emphasized that the Armed Islamic Group is not the military wing of the FIS (...) but an independent group which was formed in 1990 and which began military operations about two years ago. [passage omitted]

Sentences Handed Down for Commissioner's Assassination

LD0510230593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] The Algiers Special Judicial Council today handed down eight death sentences, a life sentence, and two 20-year jail sentences against the group Bendebkha Abderrahmane group, which consisted of 38 people. The group was implicated in the assassination of a police commissioner and his wife in the quarter of Notre Dame d'Afrique in Algiers in October last year.

Egypt

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo, Received by Sidqi

NC0510162993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this evening on visit of several days to Egypt. He was received at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

Mubarak, 'Arafat Confer

NC0510210793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak conferred with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this evening. After the meeting, President Mubarak and the Palestinian leader attended a ceremony organized by the Armed Forces at Cairo stadium [marking the 20th anniversary of the October war].

Mubarak Speech Marks Anniversary of October War

NC0510123693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0830 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Address by President Husni Mubarak on 20th anniversary of 1973 October war—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brother citizens, brothers and sons of the Armed Forces: This year marks the passage of 20 years since the glorious October; the greatest, most enduring, and most memorable of Egypt's days in modern times. Although 20 years have passed since this great event, the October war continues to have broad repercussions on Egypt and on the world. [passage omitted]

Brothers, sisters: The great and unique event that shook the Middle East to the core, altered the region's security and power concepts, restored the Egyptian military's pride, revived Arab self-confidence, and created repercussions that have surpassed its geographical and time boundaries continues today to have profound effects on the region. It has removed obstacles from the path of a sweeping current that seeks a just and comprehensive peace and advocates a new, more secure and stable, Middle East. The glorious October war has opened up broad and dignified prospects of peace to the region's nations who have been exhausted by a bitter conflict that has sapped their resources for more

than half a century and who eventually found no other recourse but to accept coexistence in a new atmosphere of good neighborliness, a renunciation of force, and a necessary mutual recognition of rights and duties.

Egypt has made strenuous and pioneering efforts on an arduous road fraught with suspicions and fears. Its aim was to attain a comprehensive and just peace to be enjoyed by all the region's nations. When it began this process, Egypt did not seek a partial or unilateral peace. However, misunderstanding and ill intentions wasted much time that could have been saved. The Palestinian- Israeli agreement, which emphasizes the Israeli and Palestinian nations' wish to end their bloody conflict, is a daring step on the path of peace that could not have been possible without the October war's profound effects on the Middle East scene. The October war proved to all parties that force has its limits; that security cannot be attained by denying the rights of others; that outdated concepts of expansionism, hate, and denial of other people's rights cannot prevail; and that nations, when all is said and done, yearn for a peace that will stop the continued spilling of their children's blood without even achieving peace or security.

The victorious will of the Palestinian and Israeli nations, their acceptance of a coexistence founded on mutual recognition of their duties and obligations, and their clear determination to forge ahead on the path of settlement regardless of the obstacles signifies the dawning of a new, more secure and stable, Middle East. Its nations can then devote themselves to economic development and reconstruction unhampered by the apprehensions of war and mutual attrition.

Great progress has been made on one of the most difficult axes of the Arab-Israeli conflict: The question of Palestine, which is the core and essence of the conflict. This could confirm that a comprehensive settlement and final solution are within a stone's throw if intentions are honest and the determination is there to make them succeed. I have no doubt that the progress on the Arab-Israeli track of the negotiations will be followed by similar progress on the rest of the negotiating tracks. This will push the peaceful settlement toward its final solution proceeding from the following sound basis: Comprehensive peace in return for full withdrawal from Arab territories occupied during the 1967 war. This is what we expect on the fronts of the Golan Heights, Jordan, and Lebanon.

The victory of the will for peace in the Middle East is a victory for the will of its people, who want to devote themselves to construction, development, and progress. It is a victory for the will of the divinities, which have chosen this region to be the land of revelation and a source of messages.

Brother citizens, there are those who falsely believe that peace can restructure the situation in the region in a way that would harm Arab interests or diminish Egypt's status and pan-Arab role. I believe that these notions are the remnants of old fears resulting from a lack of self-confidence and the correct views on the strength of the Egyptian stand. The October war spirit, which still flows through Egypt's conscience, supplies us with a strong feeling that Egypt is strong enough not to allow anyone to decrease its status or role in the region. Peace means a great deal for Egypt because it concentrates its energies on construction and provides it with the ideal opportunity for investment because of its creative powers and natural and human resources.

Peace cannot worry Egypt, diminish its position, or weaken its pan-Arab bonds because our country was, and will forever continue to be, a strong supporter of our Arab nation.

Brothers and sisters, throughout history October will continue to be a powerful event that will push forward Egypt's development and objectives. It will inspire our national conscience so that every citizen will elevate his performance to the level of the miraculous Egyptian performance during the October war. Therefore, Egypt will achieve its comprehensive growth because October signifies all the great values that urge progress: the adoption of scientific means; the performance of duty for God and the homeland; and a commitment to cooperation, unity, and joint coordination to organize the efforts of the groups and accept sacrifice during a challenge.

I ask almighty God to crown our march with success so that we can accomplish our aspirations of status and loftiness. God is the best to protect and the best to help. [part of Koranic verse]. May his peace and blessings be upon you.

Mubarak Comments on Referendum, Rabin-'Arafat Meeting

NC0510142093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Oct 93

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak at the Defense Ministry following the announcement of the results of the presidential referendum on 5 October. Several questions and answers are in English with superimposed Arabic translations—recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr. President, congratulations on the people's trust in you and on the massive number of people who cast their ballots yesterday. What is your comment on this massive voting and its significance for the people in the future?

[Mubarak] I would like to take this opportunity to greet the Egyptian people, those who voted for me or abstained, because they expressed their views. However, all I can say is that I was moved by the high percentage of the people who turned out to vote. I believe that I have never seen such massive numbers casting ballots in my life. I greet the Egyptian people. I feel that this trust and strong support will place on me more burdens and responsibilities in the future. I will do all I can to serve the people. I have made a great deal of effort in past years, and I will try to do all I can to improve the income of the poor citizens in this great country.

[Question] What about those who did not vote for you?

[Mubarak] I hope that God will help me do all I can so that those who did not vote for me may feel that I have exerted greater efforts. Perhaps they will be convinced. They are free to have their own views.

[Question] Mr. President, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will come to Cairo. It is said that Rabin is also coming?

[Mubarak] Yes, they are coming to Egypt to meet. We are ready to help. Frankly speaking, I cannot define the agenda of their talks. They will discuss implementing the agreement that they signed.

[Question] What is the future of the talks, and what is Egypt's role?

[Mubarak] Egypt is playing a role in the peace talks that is greatly appreciated by the international community. Without Egypt, I do not think it would have been possible to reach the agreement that was signed in Washington two weeks ago. Egypt's role is very important to all parties. We will do all we can, and we have contacts with all the parties concerned.

[Question] Will they decide important things?

[Mubarak] I do not know the agenda exactly. I only know that they will come to Egypt, and I will receive them. If there is anything we can do concerning the agreement signed in Washington, we are ready to do all we can.

[Question] What is your program for the third term, especially regarding any constitutional amendments so that there might be two candidates for the next presidential elections?

[Mubarak] Since there are different parties in the People's Assembly, this will provide other segments of the people with the opportunity to participate in the elections. There is need for constitutional amendments when the time is right.

[Question] What is the appropriate time?

[Mubarak] We will do what is required at the proper time. There will be social and economic amendments. We will do what we have to do at the right time.

Mubarak To Take Constitutional Oath 12 Oct

NC0510203193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1618 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has issued a republican decree calling on the People's Assembly to hold an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday [12 October]. During the meeting, President Mubarak will take the constitutional oath after the people agreed on his reelection for a third term in the referendum the results of which were announced today.

Interior Minister Gives Statistics on Voter Turnout

NC0510203093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Excerpt] At a news conference attended by international news agencies today, Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi said that the masses of the Egyptian people—94.91 percent—voted for Mubarak to assume a third term in office. He said that 15,950,025 voted for Mubarak and 583,476 did not vote for him. The ratio of those who voted yes is 96.28 percent while that of those who voted no is 3.67 percent.

The total number of eligible voters is 18,897,866, al-Alfi said. Of those, 15,904,512 turned up at the polling stations, casting 15,678,492 valid votes and 226,020 invalid ones.

The number of people who voted yes for a third presidential term for Mubarak is 15,950,025. The number of people who voted no is 583,467. The turnout ratio is 84.16 percent. The ratio of the yes votes to total votes is 94.91 percent. The ratio of those who voted no to the total of valid votes is 3.72 percent. The rate of those who voted yes to the total number of valid ballots is 96.28 percent. [passage omitted]

Government Rapped for Spending To Support Campaign

NC0610084493 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 Sep 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Crime Against Egypt's Governorates"]

[Text] The government has announced an extreme state of emergency and its prime minister has devoted himself to supporting President Mubarak for a new term as president.

The rallies supporting the president have become the major occupation of the ministers, governors, and ranking state officials.

Work is at a virtual standstill in most ministries, governorates, public institutions, and big interests.

Naturally, this will happen, since all the administrative authorities are under the control of the prime minister, who is busy travelling to the various governorates to attend the rallies and seminars and to deliver speeches and expound morals.

We hoped the prime minister and his men would listen to the complaints and demands of the governorates' sons. We hoped he would visit the villages and hamlets where there is no water, electricity, or decent life.

We hoped the prime minister would have kept quiet during his current tour. He is, after all, well known for his silence, the man who does not talk. The underprivileged governorates that ranking government officials are visiting need scores of real visits, not grand conferences and rallies.

What is happening now in these governorates is a great crime against their sons. The conferences, celebrations, and banners are set up by the funds of the shanty towns and services.

The government would have fared better if it had financed its celebrations from the National Democratic Party purse, not from the people's rights.

Courage does not lie in making a decision that deprives a village of an important service for which its sons have been waiting. Courage lies in convincing the people to donate their own funds to support the president.

Editor Criticizes PLO, Cites Mubarak on Accord

NC0610091293 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 2 Oct 93 pp 8, 10

[Article by Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah: "The Most Difficult Interview With President Mubarak"]

[Excerpts] For the first time, I found it very difficult to interview President Husni Mubarak. True, the president is generous with information and gives frank answers to journalists, but the problem this time was that many Egyptian, Arab, and non-Arab colleagues recently interviewed Mubarak for two reasons dictated by time and place: the approaching referendum and the signing of the PLO-Israeli agreement, which surprised the world and, for the first time, opened the door to a just and comprehensive solution to the almost 50 years of Arab-Israeli conflict. [passage omitted]

I was trying hard to find new questions. Should I ask him his opinion of news item about the PLO published by daily newspapers citing international news agencies?

One report, which took up only five lines on the front page, says: The Palestinian government selected a Jericho hotel to be its headquarters and the PLO assigned a Spanish contractor to renew the hotel and prepare it as government offices at a cost of $500,000.

I was provoked by this news. If anything, it shows the tactlessness characterizing the PLO leaders.

True, a half-million dollars is a trivial sum, but couldn't these leaders have made a symbolic gesture toward the Egyptian people to express their gratitude, that is, announced that an Egyptian company would carry out the first reconstruction project on Palestinian land after its restoration? Had the PLO leaders done this, the Egyptian people would have felt very pleased, not with the money, but with the significance of such a gesture toward Egypt, which has supported the Palestinian cause from the start. But, regrettably, the leaders of the PLO missed this chance—deliberately or ignorantly—leaving Egyptians angry and bewildered about what Egypt has done to the Palestinian cause to meet such ingratitude and disavowal from the Palestinian leaders. [passage omitted]

Without President Mubarak's efforts, the secret PLO-Israeli talks in Oslo could not have succeeded. Everybody, including the Israeli Government, attests to this. And yet, Mubarak did not rush to brag about his role in achieving this extremely important step in the peace process. When Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat delivered his speech on the White House lawn during the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, he said nothing to thank Egypt and its president for their help in persuading the Israeli Government to accept what it rejected earlier. 'Arafat gave thanks, hugs, and kisses to every Tom, Dick, and Harry—people who have nothing to do with the inner or outer circles of Norway's secret meetings. President Mubarak was neither angry nor sad that 'Arafat ignored the important role Egypt and its president played in achieving this historic agreement. [passage omitted]

Mubarak told me: "The Palestinians and the Israelis agreed to begin their secret talks at the beginning of 1993. The talks could have been kept secret from the entire world, including Egypt, if Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had not insisted on informing the Egyptian president that the secret talks had already started. Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was eager to keep the secret. It appeared that the talks ran into trouble after some time, prompting 'Arafat to visit Egypt for talks. As usual, I agreed to meet and listen to him. I was surprised when he whispered in my ear that he was holding secret talks with the Israeli Government in Oslo. He emphasized to me that the talks were so secret that most of the Palestinians attending our meeting did not know about them! He then asked me to intercede with Rabin to persuade him to accept the Palestinian demands so that the talks would not fail. And this I did. I contacted Rabin and Oslo's secret talks ended with the agreement." [passage omitted]

I asked President Mubarak: "Will the next government include many ministers from this government?"

Smiling, the president replied: "I don't know who will stay or go. I am awaiting the results of the referendum to learn if I am staying or leaving! Then, the head of the new government will be chosen; he will nominate ministers and study their suitability and readiness to cooperate with others."

I asked the president: "But isn't it the president who chooses many ministers without the prime minister having anything to do with it?"

The president answered: "Yes. The president chooses ministers for what is known as "sovereignty portfolios," such as defense, foreign affairs, the interior, and information."

I asked the president: "We have read hints in many American newspapers that the U.S. Administration should cut off U.S. economic aid to Egypt. Can we do without this aid?"

The president answered: "I don't think the current U.S. Administration, with which we have strong links, can take the press hints you mention seriously. The United States knows we are transforming our economic programs and that we began comprehensive economic reform some time ago. The reforms need about three years to be completed. The U.S. Administration knows we are using the aid to implement the reforms in line with an extremely delicate timetable. We are not demanding that the aid continue forever. I believe it is very difficult for the United States to cut off the aid before 1996. If it happens then, we must be prepared to face the revenue shortage. By the way, our relations with the United States are excellent. Washington is interested in Egypt's stability and strength and knows—as I said earlier—that there can be no peace in the region without Egypt and no wars without Egypt. So, Egypt must remain politically, militarily, and economically strong, because this is the most important factor for Middle East stability. If Egypt is internally shaken, this will reflect on the entire region." [passage omitted]

Efforts To Promote Arab-Israeli Ties Noted

NC0610105893 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Sep 93 p 9

[Report by Mahmud Bakri: "Israeli Lobby in Egypt Seeking End to Boycott"]

[Text] Political sources have told AL-SHA'B that former Prime Minister Dr. Mustafa Khalil and Dr. Yusuf Wali, secretary general of the ruling party and deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, are now arranging direct meetings of Israeli and Arab officials in Arab capitals. The purpose of the meetings is to persuade the Arab countries that economic cooperation with Israel is important. This activity comes after the Israeli economic paper conveyed to Egypt last week.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has refused to let the Egyptian ambassadors in Arab countries promote the Israeli paper on economic cooperation with the Arabs, demanding that it be circulated without Egypt's involvement. The Foreign Ministry suggested that this should be done through the U.S. and European ambassadors in the Arab world, considering the reservations expressed by Syria, Libya, and other Arab states on economic cooperation with Israel. During his recent visit to Alexandria, Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stressed the importance of the Egyptian role in normalizing Arab-Israeli economic ties. He emphasized that this role is more important than the U.S. role, in view of Egypt's links with the Arab world.

While the pro-Israel lobby in Egypt is working in that direction, reports indicate that in the past few days, the U.S. Administration conveyed to Iraq a proposal expressing the United States' readiness to agree to lift the international sanctions on Iraq should Iraq agree to economic cooperation with Israel and to support the peace agreements between the Arabs and Israel. Sources have noted that Washington spelled out another condition for Iraq, namely that it pledge in writing its respect for the sovereignty and security of the neighboring Arab states, particularly Kuwait. Iraq's compliance with these conditions would urge it to start serious economic and political talks to lift the three-year-old sanctions. The same sources indicated that Washington will make the same offer to the Libyan Jamahiriyah in the coming few days. An important memorandum will be conveyed to Libya on economic cooperation with Israel, especially in the field of oil, in exchange for finding a compromise solution to the Lockerbie issue. The new U.S. contacts come amid increasing interest by the White House in recording a historic achievement in the Middle East by establishing a "Middle East Market" and achieving regional economic cooperation between Israel and the Arabs.

Diplomatic sources have told AL-SHA'B that the talks held by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa during his visit to the United States have led to a joint Egyptian-U.S. paper that includes the following points:

1. To arrange high-level meetings among senior officials from the Arab negotiating countries and Israel in Washington or an Arab capital.

2. To speed up efforts to conclude a declaration of principles between Israel and both Syria and Lebanon next month. The declaration of principles should address security, borders, and political and economic peace.

3. To convince Israel, first, to partially withdraw from the Golan and south Lebanon. In return, Syria and Lebanon should take steps toward agreement on the nature of the political and economic peace. In the second stage, a comprehensive withdrawal will be discussed in return for implementing the Arab commitments.

In another development, the Egyptian Government is now studying a Palestinian request to open branches of the Egyptian banks in Gaza and Jericho. The suggested banks are the National Bank, Bank Misr, and the Bank of Alexandria. The Egyptian Government has agreed to open branches of the Arab Real Estate Bank in Nabulus and Bethlehem. The final decision on letting Egyptian banks operate in the occupied territories will depend on security following the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Israel wants joint Egyptian-Israeli banking activity if Egypt decides to open branches in the occupied territories.

Mubarak's Meeting With Army Commanders Noted

NC0510212393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1324 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, head of the presidential press office, has said that President Husni Mubarak, when he chaired the meeting today of the Higher Council of the Armed Forces in his capacity as supreme commander of the Armed Forces, discussed the role of the Armed Forces in the modern age, especially protection of the homeland.

He said President Mubarak stressed during the two-hour meeting that Egypt's standing grows as the ability and power of its Armed Forces grow, and that everybody considers this factor in Egypt's relations with the world.

As ample proof of this, the president pointed to the Gulf war, which highlighted the distinguished performance of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

'Abd-al-Mun'im said Mubarak reviewed during his meeting with the Armed Forces commanders Egypt's relations with the world, describing U.S.-Egyptian relations as "special."

He said President Mubarak also discussed the current situation in Russia and the bloody events that took place there as a result of certain policies. He reviewed the impact of this on the world, especially Europe and the Middle East.

'Abd-al-Mun'im said the president also discussed Egypt's relations with the Arab countries, stressing that they are fraternal and firm, and have not been as good for many years. [passage omitted]

Al-Jihad Member's Interview Said 'Fabricated'

NC0610083493 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Sep 93 p 8

[Report by Muhammad Zaki]

[Text] A responsible Interior Ministry security source has denied what was published in AL-SHA'B on 24 September about an interview with 'Abbud al-Zumur, who is being held at the Turah prison after being convicted in the cases of the assassination of President al-Sadat and incidents in Asyut. The security source said the interview conducted by AL-SHA'B editor Ahmad al-Suyufi was fabricated.

The source said the Higher State Security Prosecution is investigating. During the investigation, the correspondent said he did not visit the prison to interview al-Zumur. He claimed the interview was conducted indirectly through press sources, who confirmed to him that the interview had been conducted with 'Abbud al-Zumur. The security source said the correspondent could not say why the interview was attributed to him. The prosecution charged him with promoting extremist group objectives through his writing, undermining social peace, and publishing false reports against the public interest. The prosecution released the correspondent on bail.

In an interview with the prosecution, 'Abbus al-Zumur also denied meeting the correspondent.

Universities Ban Political, Religious Activity

NC0510221193 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 2 Oct 93 p 1

[Report by Zaki al-Sa'dani]

[Text] The councils of universities have banned any political activity on campus and the use of classrooms for noneducational activity, such as delivering political or religious speeches. It has also been decided not to organize book fairs without first examining the books on display to make sure that they do not promote extremist beliefs or ideas against the regime or public ethics.

The university councils have warned against collecting donations and financial contributions so that they may not be used to finance activities that run counter to the law and the Constitution. The universities have authorized the university guards to remove books and wall magazines that violate these rules.

Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi is scheduled to meet before the start of classes on 16 October with the heads of universities to make the security arrangements to maintain law and order within the universities. AL-WAFD has learned that as of this year, a two-semester system will be applied at the universities to curtail student activity and prevent the students from undertaking any political activity, since they will be busy studying all year round.

U.S. Report on Aid Suggests Educational Changes

NC0610111693 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Sep 93 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that the U.S. State Department has prepared a report on maintaining the U.S. aid program to Egypt, which stipulates removing what are described as outdated religious concepts from the education syllabus. The report considers that scholastic texts are directly responsible for the growth of the extremist terrorist religious movement, because they contain concepts about "fighting" and "hatred of others" or "al-Jihad" in Islam.

The report claimed Muslim and Christian students are treated differently, that they hold each other in contempt, and that the main cause of this aversion are the "mendacious" values the school syllabus advocates regarding attitudes to Christianity. The report urges basing the education development plan on the concepts of joint Egyptian-American schools.

Libya

Former DIA Agent Alleges Lockerbie Coverup

PM0610042993 London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 3 Oct 93 p 21

[By Con Coughlin]

[Text] As an American secret agent working in Beirut in the 1980s, Lester Coleman relied on his spycraft to stay alive. Now he is using all the tricks his US spymasters taught him to tell what he insists is the truth about the Lockerbie bomb.

Libya is this weekend bracing itself for the implementation of tougher United Nations sanctions. At the same time Mr. Coleman, who worked for a top-secret American intelligence unit in the Middle East in the 1980s, insists that the terrorist bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in December 1988 was the work of Iran and Syria.

For daring to contradict the US government's line that Libya was entirely responsible for the Lockerbie disaster, in which 270 people died, Mr. Coleman and his family have suffered a fate which reads like a spy novel.

Forced to flee the US after the Federal Bureau of Investigation tried to jail him for what he claims were trumped up charges of passport irregularities, Mr Coleman now lives in hiding in Scandinavia, fearful of attempts to prevent him telling his version of events.

Before agreeing to be interviewed by THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, Mr. Coleman insisted on meeting at a secret location in southern Europe. When he arrived he was accompanied by a tall Scandinavian bodyguard detailed to protect him by a Western government which supports his allegations.

When I asked the bodyguard whether he was armed he replied: "I am not prepared to answer that question."

Before the interview began, Mr. Coleman insisted on turning on the television drown our conversation if there was a bugging device in the hotel room.

Mr. Coleman wanted to discuss his book "Trail of the Octopus," published last week, which he hopes will blow an enormous hole in the official version of how the Lockerbie bombing was carried out. His involvement in the Lockerbie tragedy goes back to the spring of 1988, when he was based in Cyprus as an agent for the Defence Intelligence Agency, a top secret military intelligence unit which reported directly to the Pentagon in Washington.

Such was the level of paranoia within the American intelligence establishment in the wake of the Iran-Contra scandal that, among other tasks, Coleman had been asked to spy on the activities of America's Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) officials working in Lebanon.

Lebanon's al-Biqa' Valley is one of the world's major heroin and hashish producers, and from the mid-1980s American agents undertook a series of "sting" operations to halt the flow of drugs to the US. As part of these, agents allowed "controlled deliveries" of drugs from Lebanon to America via Frankfurt airport.

But after the American warship Vincennes accidentally shot down an Iranian Airbus in July 1988, Mr. Coleman claims that the DEA's "sting" drugs channel was penetrated by terrorists who, instead of placing a suitcase full of heroin on the flight, checked in the bag full of explosives that sealed the fate of flight 103.

According to Mr. Coleman, the bombing of the Pan Am airliner was ordered by Ayatollah Khomeyni, then the Iranian leader, in retaliation for the Airbus incident. Because Iran had neither the contacts nor the access to European channels necessary to carry out the operation, Teheran "sub-contracted" the Syrian government to handle the operation.

Rif'at al-Asad, the brother of the Syrian president, was one of those responsible for controling the export of drugs from the al-Biqa' Valley, even though he had been forced to live in exile in France for attempting to overthrow his brother. He also had good relations with Ahmad Jibril, leader of the radical PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command] Palestinian group. With Iranian finance and Rif'at al-Asad's access to the American "sting" channel, Mr. Coleman asserts that Ahmad Jibril, who has a long history of involvement in cold-blooded terrorist atrocities, was paid to arrange for a bomb to be put on PA 103.

From the outset of the investigation into the Lockerbie outrage, Iran, Syria and the Jibril faction were all considered prime suspects. Ahmad Jibril was even said to have boasted how he was paid $10 million for the attack. But after considering the various allegations, Scottish detectives directed their attention to the Malta connection, which resulted in charges being brought against two Libyans.

While there appears to be a good case for proving Libyan complicity in the case, many Middle East and anti-terrorism experts were nevertheless surprised when US President George Bush appeared to absolve Iran and Syria of blame by stating that the allegations made against them were a "bum rap". With the end of the Cold War and the emergence of Iraq's Saddam Husayn as a major force in the Middle East, many observers believe that Mr. Bush made this statement to achieve more stable relations with Damascus and Tehran.

In this were the case, Mr. Coleman's conflicting claims, which he says he can substantiate, would be a source of great embarrassment to his government.

Certainly, the nightmare suffered by the Coleman family began after lawyers acting for families of the Lockerbie victims arrived in Cyprus to investigate the drug channel claims. Mr. Coleman believes that DEA agents, anxious not to be blamed for the tragedy, prompted the FBI to investigate him for passport irregularities.

"They wanted to silence me," he said. "They wanted to make me keep quiet by threatening me with a long jail sentence." Fearing the worst, Mr. Coleman took his wife and three children to Sweden, where he became the first American citizen to seek asylum since the Vietnam war.

That was three years ago, and since then the family has made a new life at a secret location in Scandinavia. "The family is happy and my kids go to school. We are not gypsies. But I live in fear of someone knocking at the door at night."

Until last week the various departments of the American intelligence establishment that employed Mr. Coleman vigorously denied any knowledge of him. Then, to thwart publication of his book, eight charges of perjury were lodged against him by intelligence officials at a New York court.

It may, of course, be that Mr. Coleman is just another fantasist who cannot let go of his days as a daredevil agent.

But nothing has helped more to authenticate his allegations about Syrian and Iranian involvement in the Lockerbie tragedy than the irrational and distinctly vindictive reaction his story has provoked within the mainstream American intelligence community.

Foreign Liaison Secretary Meets With Butrus-Ghali

LD0610092693 Tripoli JANA in English 0846 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] The United Nations New York/ al Timour [Oct] 6/ JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General Peoples Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation met with Butrus Butrus-Ghali, the secretary general of the United Nations.

The secretary of the General Peoples Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation asserted that the Great Jamahiriya was working to solve the crisis between it and the western countries, far removed from the use of threats, which the western countries have brandished.

The official spokesperson for the secretary general of the United Nations said that another meeting would be held

between the secretary of the General Peoples Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation and the secretary general of the United Nations during the next few days and that a date had not yet been decided for this meeting to take place.

West Seeking Further 'Coercive Measures'

LD0210183093 Tripoli JANA in English 1755 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Timur [October] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Within the framework of their hostile policies towards the Great Jamahiriyah and in defiance of the will of the international community which announced, through all regional and international organisations, its total support for and solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah in the crisis with the Western countries and its demand for the lifting of the coercive measures imposed on her by the invalid Resolution 748, the three Western countries including America, Britain and France are exerting pressure on the U.N Security Council for a new resolution upgrading the arbitrary coercive measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah as result of the invalid Resolution 748.

Reports said that the three countries prepared a draft resolution in this respect for the following: - A freezing of the Libya's financial assets abroad, but excludes funds derived from oil, natural gas or agricultural products; - a ban on the sale of oil related equipment for [word indistinct] and transporting oil and gives a detailed list of this equipment excluding that used by Libya for oil exploration; - closing loopholes on the air embargo against Libya, in force since al-Tayr 1992 such as the immediate closure of Libyan airline offices abroad.

The draft resolution promises a suspension of the sanctions as soon as the two suspects in the Pan Am airliner incident are handed over and the demands of the French magistrate investigating the bombing of the French Uta airliner over Niger in 1988 are met.

The measures can be reimposed within 90 days if other demands, requested by the resolution of 1992, amongst them the compensation of the families of the airliner victims, are not met.

The permanent delegate of the Great Jamahiriyah to the U.N made a statement to journalists regarding the crisis between the Great Jamahiriyah and Western countries. He asserted the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is endeavouring to deal with fabricated crisis with the three Western countries regardless of what these Western countries are contemplating. The Great Jamahiriyah is seeking to deal with this issue firstly to exonerate herself and to know the real perpetrator.

This fabricated crisis, into which preliminary investigations last several years, besides being fabricated is a complex and ambiguous crisis which cannot be reasonably solved in weeks let alone days.

Thinking of solving the crisis, which lasted for several years, in hours takes the world into the unreasonable, a world of childish rather than responsible thinking. Despite all this the Great Jamahiriyah continues to deal with this crisis in a judicious, patient and earnest manner to absolve herself on the one hand and eliminate terrorism in collaboration with the international community without taking any notice of the three Western countries' ultimatum.

Daily: Arabs Have Leverage in Lockerbie Affair

LD0510192693 Tripoli JANA in English 1437 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Timur [October] 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The London-based "AL-ARAB" newspaper today reported that, after his visit to the United States, 'Amr Musa, the Egyptian foreign minister stated that his talks with officials in the United States had dealt with the Lockerbie issue and added that there was indication there that a tightening of sanctions against Libya would not take place.

The "AL-ARAB" newspaper added that it appeared that the Arab countries now had some weight and leverage with the Western countries and that the move towards refraining from a tightening of the sanctions against Libya was a result of the efforts of the Arab countries.

The newspaper said that the matter had now reverted to a legal issue, namely a matter to be dealt with between the suspects and their lawyers on the one hand and the other parties involved on the other and that Libya had done all that was required of it and had absolved itself of complicity in the matter.

The "AL-ARAB" newspaper said that the statement made my 'Amr Musa shows Egypt's position and that of the Arab countries vis a vis the issue, a position which resulted in the Western countries' postponement of tightening sanctions against Libya.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Citizens in al-Sharara City

LD0510195093 Tripoli JANA in English 1650 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Sabha, Al-Tumur [October] 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Once more the masses mixed with the leader of the revolution and clamoured solidly in defiance to the sanctions and in rejection of all forms of policy of threat and menaces applied by the Western states against the Great Jamahiriyah.

In an historic event expressing the continued power and energy of the revolution the colleagues and comrades of the leader of the revolution from students and teachers have merged with the leader Mu'amar al-Qadhdhafi in the city of Al Sharara to epitomise the unionist demonstration led by the student Mu'amar al 'Abu Minar al-Qadhdhafi in such a day 32 years ago in response to the crime of separation.

The masses converged from all directions to mingle with the leader and his comrades. Thus the epitomization of the unionist demonstration transformed into a rally of faithfulness and loyalty to the leader to confirm the revolutionary action. The masses clamoured loudly once again in

defiance of all policies of threats and menaces applied by the Western states against the Great Jamahiriyah. At the same time the masses announced their commitment to the people's authority and their appreciation for the huge civilizational achievements realized over a quarter of a century by the revolution and the eternal readiness to defend it against anyone who ponders to undermine such achievements.

Fast Train To Link Tubruq, Egypt's al-Sallum

LD0110215893 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The commencement of the execution of a railway project linking Tubruq, in the Great Jamahiriyah, and al-Sallum, in the Arab Republic of Egypt, was marked yesterday evening in Tubruq. [passage omitted]

The length of the railway linking Tubruq and al-Sallum is 181 km which will in turn be linked with the railway network in the Arab Republic of Egypt at the railway junction in al-Sallum region. The length of the western extension of the line will be 25 km, while the Tubruq port link will be 26 km. The project includes the building of nine passenger stations, including a main line station in Tubruq to be built on an area of three hectares. Its passenger capacity is expected to be 5,000 passengers daily in each direction on an expected 10 journeys daily in each direction. The designed speed of the line is 160 km per hour.

It is worth noting that the African engineering company will participate with Arab and international companies which have experience in the field to execute the project in the framework of transferring technology and expertise and training of Libyan Arab cadres in specialist work in the field of railways, which will facilitate wider participation by Libyan Arab cadres in the coming implementation phases.

JANA has learned that the execution of a railway project linking Ra's Jidayr and Tripoli will begin in the next few days.

A source at the general directorate of the administration and execution of railway projects in the Great Jamahiriyah said that the directorate will build 3,100 km of railway lines across the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Vows To End Nuba Mountains Resistance

EA0510170893 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has said that this year will see an end to the rebellion in the Nuba Mountains. He pointed out that the people of the Nuba Mountains had confirmed their desire for peace. He said this on 3 October when he met officers, noncommissioned officers, and men of the Khartoum military zone.

His Excellency said that the progress in construction would not stop, particularly in the area of beefing up and equipping the Armed Forces. He said there will also be an expansion in higher and general education. He stressed that work would continue in the exploitation of available resources, the expansion of agriculture, the digging of canals, and the extraction of gasoline. He said the country would be subjected to much pressure and strife as a result of its ambitious programs, independent decision-making, and freedom from subservience. He pointed out that there would be no retreat from the straight path laid down by the revolution. He said that ordeals and adversities would only increase the determination of this people to achieve their goals.

New Southern Movement To Attempt To Stop Fighting

AB0210121593 Paris AFP in English 0826 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Nairobi, Oct 2 (AFP)—A new movement has been formed in southern Sudan to try to arrest the deteriorating military situation in the predominantly Christian and animist region, its leaders announced here. The organisation, to be known as the Patriotic Resistance Movement of South Sudan (PRMSS), is to be headed by veteran southern commanders Alfred Lado Gore as chairman and commander in chief.

Addressing a press conference here Friday [1 October], Gore and his deputy Barri Wanji stressed that their movement's first priority would be to stop inter-tribal fighting between different factions of the southern rebel groups.

They would also focus on efforts to find a peaceful solution to the southern Sudanese conflict based on a plan of action already approved by several African leaders and European Community.

"The PRMSS will go for self-determination and this principle will not be negotiation. If Khartoum refuses to grant this, then we will push them out by force and set up an independent state for southern Sudan," Gore said.

The decision to launch the new movement was made on August 18 after several months of consultation among southerners, they said. The movement has since its formation presented a new peace plan to African leaders to try and end fighting among southern Sudanese.

Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi is currently leading efforts to mediate between the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which split into two factions more than year ago—the mainstream faction led by SPLA leader John Garang and SPLA-United led by his former close commanders Riek Machar and Kerubino Kwanyin Bol. Moi met here on Wednesday with Garang and on Thursday with Riek Machar in an apparent effort to reconcile the two warring faction leaders.

The three commanders accused both Garang's Torit faction and Riek Machar's Nasir faction of having betrayed the original ideals of the SPLA by aligning with northern Arab groups which have at one time or other oppressed southerners.

The situation in the south has degenerated to a point of despair and imminent total defeat, the two commanders said, "because Garang has allied with former oppressers when they were in power and Riek Machar has now aligned with current NIF [National Islamic Front] regime in Khartoum, while southern Sudanese were dying in thousands daily."

The SPLA took up arms in 1983 to try and end domination of the south by the mainly Arabised Islamic north. Fighting has left hundreds of thousand dead and more than a million more displaced.

Commentary Criticizes Human Rights Report

EA0210125093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Amnesty International is an organization of British origin which has an imperialist orientation and colonialist aims. It grew up under the protection of the empire on which the sun has now set. In spite of that, it unlawfully added to its name the description international. This suspect organization recently allowed itself to talk foolishly about Sudan and use its imagination to concoct a report that is strange to Sudan and its government and people.

The report has many falsifications, distortions, fabrications, and deceptions which cannot fool anyone who knows Sudan and its people and the values of purity, moral excellence, and tolerance on which Sudanese society was founded and on which its sons have existed since Sudan came into being. These are values whose essence is not known by the Amnesty International people and those who side with them because they are derived from the religion of the people of Sudan, the true Islamic religion which the Sudanese have accepted to be their guide in every area of life, which has incited enemies against them from the people of infidelity, misguidance, tyranny, and arrogance, including Amnesty International.

Among the claims of this organization is the existence of cases of rape of women by the army and other cases of expulsion of civilians and violations of human rights. The Christian, British organization forgot that the violation of a woman, whatever the extent of this violation and its form, is among the matters that are condemned and rejected in principle by all Sudanese without exception. As for the claims about the expulsion of the inhabitants of the Nubah mountains and their removal [words indistinct] is also a rejected statement that is refuted by the reality that is visible now in the peaceful villages of the Nubah mountains. These are villages that were originally established by the local authorities to absorb the returnees, through their own volition, from the subjugation and tyranny of the [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebellion in response to the amnesty declared by the government.

It should have been possible for representatives of the amnesty organization, which admitted to the BBC that they had not visited Sudan for a long time, to come to Sudan and acquaint themselves with the conditions in these villages instead of relying on written messages and reports. Indeed, it would have been worthier for this organization, which claims to be international, to take the initiative, after acquainting itself with the conditions in the areas of the south and west at close quarters, to mobilize international support to assist the Government of Sudan in consolidating the pillars of stability not just in the peace villages but also in all the areas for returnees from the rebellion.

This is what we sought from an organization claiming to be concerned with defending human rights in Sudan and other countries. The amnesty organization, through these fabrications, has confirmed that it is revolving in the orbit of the Western circles hostile to Sudan and that it is one of the tools of pressure and intimidation which are being used by the forces of evil and arrogance for the purpose of aborting Sudan's civilizational Islamic plan.

In spite of this, the march will proceed toward the horizons of honor, liberation, and emancipation from the intrigues and evils of the West. Those who have oppressed will know the place of overthrow into which they will be overthrown.

Ummah Leaders' Release Not Sign of Policy Change

PM0510111893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Nizar Daw-al-Na'im report: "Ummah Party: Detainees' Release Does Not Mean Change in Khartoum's Policy]

[Excerpts] London—Dr. 'Umar Nur-al-Da'im, secretary general of the Sudanese opposition Ummah Party and former finance and agriculture minister, has confirmed that Sudanese authorities have released two Ummah Party leaders "as a result of international pressures on Khartoum." He said that their release does not reflect any change in the regime's policy, "which we will not believe has changed unless the regime's nature is changed."

Nur-al-Da'im pointed out to AL-HAYAH that at the beginning of the week the authorities released Major General Fadlallah Barmah Nasir, minister of state for defense affairs in al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's government, and 'Abd-al-Rasul al-Nur, governor of Kordofan and former industry minister, after five months of detention. He added that the authorities released another group of the party's officials some time ago.

He said that over the past seven months Sudanese authorities have arrested 50 of the party's leaders, among them al-Ansar affairs committee officials, mosque imams, and activists. He added that most of these have been released, but some—among them Isma'il Ballul, official in charge of information in the al-Ansar affairs committee, who was

arrested in the wake of the attack on Qubbat al-Mahdi—are still detained, that is in addition to other unionist and opposition elements. [passage omitted]

He added that "it was local, regional, and international pressures which forced the government to release some detainees." The government, he said, now realizes that the issues of human rights, pluralism, democracy, and freedom "are now vigorously raised on the international scene and currently subjected to international observation—which has been reflected in the repeated condemnations issued against Sudan."

He noted that the statements made by Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih and other officials "tend to deny the government's involvement in human right violations and keep inviting observers and reporters to visit Sudan. These invitations are the outcome of pressures, not a change in the government's policy."

He pointed out that "our position is that these practices will not end unless the regime's nature is changed, as the regime could return to the policy of detention and torture, which is part of its putschist character." [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Addresses ICO Meeting

EA0510143393 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has addressed the first coordination meeting of foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] held on the sidelines of the 48th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. Dr. Abu-Salih enlightened the ministers on Sudan's stand towards the U.S. decision to include it in the list of states which Washington claims foster terrorism. The foreign minister said the U.S. decision was aimed at creating pretexts prior to its intervention in southern Sudan. He stressed that Sudan was working hard to find a peaceful and just solution to the southern problem.

Dr. Abu-Salih also reviewed Sudan's stand towards the Middle East, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, Libya, and Kashmir issues. He reiterated Sudan's support for the Islamic-Arab-Palestinian position as a step towards just peace and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The foreign minister also touched on double standards and the violation of human rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina, stressing Sudan's support for any effort by the ICO in this connection. He stressed the need to highlight the importance of regional organizations in seeking a solution to the Somali problem. Dr. Abu-Salih expressed his hope for Islamic cooperation in order to face up to the dangers threatening the Islamic nation.

RCC Member Urges Arab, Muslim Support for Libya

EA0510133493 Khartoum SUNA in English 0945 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Oct (SUNA)—Member of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], Maj-Gen Tijani Adam al-Tahir, has called on the Arab and Muslims to support Libya in her legal right to defend its people against the aggression demanding the handing over of the Libyans accused at Lockerbie case. He confirmed in a statement to AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH newspaper of today the stand of the people and Government of Sudan with Libya, pointing out that the western blockade against Libya and the threats and warnings were just an arbitrary plan aimed at the Libyan leadership. He also explained that there was no clear condemnation against Libya and the Libyan leadership did not refuse the stand of the accused Libyan before the court. [sentence as received]

Kuwait

Foreign Minister, Russian Envoy Discuss Moscow Events

LD0410223393 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dhakil, the minister of state for cabinet affairs and acting foreign affairs minister, this evening met with Petr Stegniya, the Russian Federation ambassador to the State of Kuwait.

During the meeting, bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and the means to sufficiently develop and strengthen them were discussed.

The Russian ambassador also briefed the minister of state for cabinet affairs and acting foreign affairs minister on the incidents taking place in Moscow and the conditions which the Russian capital is witnessing.

Oman

Iranian Envoy Delivers Message From Velayati

LD0510114893 Tehran IRNA in English 1122 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct. 5, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Oman Mohammad 'Arab handed over a message from Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to his Omani counterpart Yusuf Bin-'Alawi in a meeting in Muscat Tuesday [5 October].

The two sides discussed bilateral relations, regional developments and matters of mutual interest. The Iranian diplomat and Omani minister also underlined the need for further contacts and consultation between the two countries over regional as well as international developments.

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet Discusses OPEC Meeting, Other Issues

LD0410212693 Riyadh SPA in English 1925 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Jeddah, Oct 4, SPA—Crown Prince Abdullah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard presided over the weekly regular session of the Council of Ministers at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah this afternoon.

After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told Saudi Press Agency, the cabinet, at the outset of the meeting, reviewed an information report covering the most important political and security developments including the latest developments in Russia and situations in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia. [passage omitted]

Then, the cabinet, al-Sha'ir said listened to a detailed report presented by the minister of finance and national economy on the outcome of international meetings held in Washington last week, which were hosted by the United States to see what could be offered by the international community in terms of development assistance to improve the difficult situation being faced by the Palestinian brothers residing in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The assistances will be devoted for improving public utility services, infrastructures including establishments of schools, hospitals, road and electricity establishments besides setting up new utilities. The meeting was attended by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister and Mohammed Aba-al-Khayl, the minister of finance and national economy.

Aba-al-Khayl also informed the council about the outcome of the IMF/World Bank meeting on the world economic situation and ways to improve the situation by removing barriers imposed by some countries on the international trade, the information minister said. "The matter is of great concern to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as it is the biggest oil exporter," al-Sha'ir added.

Concerning the petroleum issue, Crown Prince Abdullah Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz asked the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Hisham Nazir to brief the council on the outcome of the recently concluded OPEC ministerial meeting in Geneva.

Reporting on the OPEC ministerial meeting, Hisham Nazir made it clear that, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in cooperation with other member states, made great efforts to reach the new accord. [passage omitted]

Nazir emphasized that the accord was firstly aimed at setting up a production ceiling less than the present demand and secondly to fill gaps for countries, which were not satisfied with their production quotas and thirdly to compensate the countries, which offered sacrifices by freezing their production quotas this time by giving them a priority in the distribution level next time.

"Such clear principles have greatly helped in achieving the successful agreement which was received with optimism in the market, especially at a time when there is no longer any justification for breaching official quotas after all members had been allocated acceptable quantities," Nazir said.

"Moreover, oil prices began surging up by a dollar and a half since the beginning of the meeting. I do predict more increase," he added. [passage omitted]

Talks With UN Special Commission, IAEA Continue

JN0510192693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Oct (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz held a meeting with Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, at the Foreign Ministry this evening. 'Aziz also held a meeting with Maurizio Zifferero, deputy head of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

During the two meetings, efforts were made to resolve the remaining secondary issues concerning Part C of Resolution 687—pertaining to the weapons of mass destruction Iraq is prohibited from possessing.

Talks on the level of technical committees also continued today, for the fourth consecutive day, to carry out the duties assigned to them.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, said yesterday that a positive atmosphere prevailed in the current talks in Baghdad.

INA has learned that the talks will resume at the Foreign Ministry tomorrow.

Ekeus Urged Not To Yield to Pressure

JN0610105393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Oct (INA)—AL-'IRAQ has warned the evil-minded parties to the anti-Iraq alliance against fabricating pretexts to prevent justice from being done now that Iraq has dealt positively with the Security Council resolutions and fulfilled its commitments. In an editorial today, AL-'IRAQ called on the UN Special Commission delegation led by Rolf Ekeus, who has been fully acquainted with the reality of the objective Iraqi stand, not to yield to any pressure that might be put on him by this or that international party that does not want to see justice take its course.

AL-'IRAQ adds that all good people in the world know full well that the unjust resolutions against Iraq and its patient people were adopted under severe pressure from the United States, its allies, and its agents. They also know that the only reason for the continuation of these resolutions over the past years was the intransigent, illegitimate, and inhuman stand adopted by America and its allies. They have ignored the fact that true international legitimacy prevents any action aimed at starving an entire people in order to achieve mean and aggressive political objectives.

The paper adds that Iraq has dealt positively with the Security Council resolutions and fulfilled its commitments, as Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, acknowledged. Also, the current talks [with the UN Special Commission] reiterate that the Iraqi side has expressed its concern to resolve the pending issues after settling most of the points mentioned in Part C of Resolution 687.

AL-'IRAQ noted that Iraq demonstrated—through its ranking negotiating team led by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz—its full cooperation with the UN Special Commission in order to achieve fruitful results that will lift the unjust blockade and put matters in order. It is true to say that the fairness of the Iraqi position is represented by its objectivity, responsible proposals, and its adherence to its line of cooperation with the United Nations and the Security Council, without relinquishing its right to sovereignty, development, and a prosperous future.

The Iraqi paper stresses that in return the UN Special Commission delegation—which has been well acquainted with the reality of the objective Iraqi position that seeks cooperation and solution to the remaining issues in the file of prohibited weapons—has a delicate mission ahead. The delegation must announce this Iraqi position very frankly, and its report to the Security Council must state the facts honestly. The delegation must not submit to any pressure from this or that international party that does not want to see justice take its course.

The paper stresses that the militant people of Iraq, under the banner of their historic leader Saddam Husayn, possess all the factors of a splendid victory. The fate of the chapter of the unjust blockade will be similar to that of all chapters of plotting which were destroyed by the Iraqis who proved, through their unlimited capability, that their decisive word will be the final word.

Minister Urges UN Intervention To End Air Embargo

JN0610084693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Iraq has strongly protested U.S., British, and French aircraft's violations of Iraq's airspace on the pretext of implementing the illegitimate air embargo imposed by these countries on northern and southern Iraq. This embargo, which has nothing to do with the Security Council resolutions, really aims at continuing the plotting and aggression against Iraq. This came in Acting Foreign Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi's 27 September letter to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali. Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations handed the letter to the UN secretary general on 29 September.

The letter says: At 1250 on 24 September 1993, U.S., British, and French aircraft broke the sound barrier over the city of al-Basrah. The minister added: As a result of this incident, the window and door glass of many houses shattered and defenseless people were frightened.

The minister noted that this new provocative act reiterates the insistence of the United States and its allies to continue their unjust and provocative policy against Iraq and its people. This requires UN intervention to end the air embargo imposed by these countries, the minister said.

The Iraqi message holds the governments of the United States and its allies full responsibility for their aggression

against the Iraqi people's security and safety. The minister asked the UN secretary general to distribute this letter as a Security Council document.

Human Rights Center Appeals to UN To End Executions

NC0510220593 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] The general center of human rights in Iraq has appealed to the United Nations and its special envoy (Van der Stoel) to take the necessary measures to end the current waves of executions in Iraq, which have been occurring since mid-July, especially in the horrible al-Radwaniyah prison near Baghdad. In an urgent memorandum, the center, citing eyewitnesses, explained the serious violations being committed by the tyrant's regime. It also explained the horrible acts and random sentences against hundreds of innocent Iraqis.

The memorandum gives names of nine detainees who died of torture. They are among 500 detainees believed to be [words indistinct] human rights in the world to the consistent violations in the prisons of (Durub), al-Radwaniyah, and Tikrit against Iraqi citizens without specific charges, due process, or fair trial. The center appealed to those parties to act promptly to drive the regime to [words indistinct].

U.S. Incapable of 'Taming' Somalia

JN0410151893 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 4, INA—AL-THAWRAH newspaper of Baghdad today said that Clinton administration is incapable of taming the Somali people and subjugating them to its will despite the brutal acts and ferocity of the American aggressions on that country.

A paper article here today said the Somali people had bypassed their differences and disputes and are now proceeding along the path of unifying their national ranks for the confrontation of foreign forces of invasion of their country.

The paper referring to the Clinton decision of setting up prisons in Somalia uncovers the nature of the American claims of the relief operations extended to the Somali people to eliminate their sufferings.

The paper added that this measure also confirms the hostile nature of the American mission in Somalia and shows that those who were not killed by the American and other invaders weapons would be detained and confined to the prisons that would be built and financed by Clinton.

The Clinton decision also reflects the nature of the dilemma in which the American administration had fallen following its intervention into Somalia.

The Iraqi paper also said that voices were raised in the Congress and the Pentagon on withdrawing American troops from Somalia after the intensification of attacks by Somali national resistance men on the American and foreign forces in Somalia.

The paper warned against an attempt to spark of a new civil war in Somalia and said that such an attempt would have dear prices for Clinton administration.

The Iraqi paper said that if American and other foreign troops supported by the most advanced weapons and helicopters failed to impose their will on the Somali people and ending their brave resistance, would the local police or mercenary forces be able to control the situation there?.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Views Russian Developments

JN0410154593 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 4, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper predicted that bloody confrontations in Moscow would have grave consequences and repercussions that would change the picture of present Russia.

A paper article here today said that the bloody events that had started in Russia would not stop before settling the conflict between President Yeltsin and his opponents once and for all.

The Iraqi paper charged the American Administration of working to push events in Moscow toward armed confrontation and encouraging President Yeltsin to implement a mass liquidation of his opponents.

Saddam Visits Ba'th Party Division, Branch

JN0310151493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has visited the headquarters of the al-Ma'mun Ba'th Party division. During the meeting, the president met with the secretary of the Abu-Ja'far al-Mansur command branch and the secretary and members of the al-Ma'mun Ba'th Party division.

His excellency gave some important directives concerning the work of party organizations.

Rabin on Aims of Summit With 'Arafat

TA0510195593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by unidentified correspondent on evening of 5 October; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, what issues do you intend to raise in your meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat tomorrow?

[Rabin] I have no intentions of divulging the details of the issues I intend to raise. The meeting is mainly aimed at determining working arrangements for implementing the agreements which we have achieved.

[Correspondent] What is your attitude regarding the Palestinians' desire to establish a temporary government in the territories?

[Rabin] The interim agreement refers to a council and nothing beyond that.

[Correspondent] Is tomorrow's meeting in Egypt aimed at, among other things, softening 'Arafat's harsh reaction to Israel's firm operations against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the fugitives?

[Rabin] The main objective of the meeting is to establish working arrangements to enable us to implement the agreements. We signed an agreement on a declaration of principles with its various annexes. Our aim is to fulfill the commitments that stem from these agreements. We want to establish the working arrangements, the committees, the negotiating teams, to determine a timetable, to start working toward the implementation of the agreement.

[Correspondent] Finally, Sir, why did you not invite him to Jerusalem? After all, you shook hands in Washington.

[Rabin] I thought that Egypt was the suitable place, and this feeling is also shared by the other side and by the hosts. I will have an opportunity to start the visit with a breakfast with President Mubarak, who was elected to his third term in office today. I want to take this opportunity to send him my congratulations on his reelection.

Departs for Cairo

TA0610064093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is currently on his way to Cairo. Rabin will meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak at the presidential palace and will later meet with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. This morning, sources in Jerusalem stressed that Israel will not offer the Palestinians any more goodwill gestures. Our correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports:

Officials in Jerusalem this morning sought to emphasize that this is only a businesslike working meeting. There will be no ceremonies or news conferences. Rabin took off for Cairo a short while ago in a special Israel Air Force jet. In Cairo, he is scheduled to first meet for breakfast with President Husni Mubarak. Later, he will apparently hold a private meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. These meetings will take place at the presidential palace in Heliopolis. The prime minister will stress that Israel will make no more goodwill gestures to the Palestinians. The time for gestures is over, sources in Jerusalem said.

At the meeting, Rabin will demand the rapid establishment of the committees that will discuss the implementation of the document of principles. Rabin will also seek to determine who will participate in these committees as well as the level of the negotiations. These committees will discuss the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement in negotiations that are scheduled to start in exactly one week, on 13 October. These negotiations will deal with the economic aspects of the document of principles, as well as early empowerment for the Palestinians in five areas of responsibility in the territories.

In Jerusalem it was stressed that in his meetings today, the prime minister will tell Yasir 'Arafat that the borders of the autonomy, the Jordan River bridges, and traffic between the Gaza Strip and Jericho will remain the responsibility of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

The negotiations on the implementation of Gaza-Jericho First begin in exactly one week. The contacts that preceded today's meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat already began last week. These contacts were stepped up this week at the prime minister's initiative.

Rabin is now on his way to Cairo with Shim'on Sheves, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office; Eytan Haber, the head of the prime minister's bureau; Major General Dani Yatom, the prime minister's military secretary; Jacques Neriya, his political adviser; Cad Ben-Ari, his media adviser; and Yo'el Zinger, the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser. Rabin is expected back in Israel early this afternoon.

Opposition Leaders React to Rabin-'Arafat Meeting

TA0510113893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Here is the opposition's response to the upcoming meeting between Mr. Rabin and 'Arafat:

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that the prime minister is rushing to Cairo to accord 'Arafat the status of head of state, even though the PLO has not honored its commitment to denounce terror against Israelis and to amend those clauses in the Palestinian Covenant calling for Israel's destruction. According to Netanyahu, this is a continuation of the government's weak policy, which does not defend Israel's vital interests.

Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan said that the prime minister has lost control of the developments and that it is 'Arafat who is currently holding the reins.

Moledet leader Rehav'am Ze'evi said that the prime minister cannot shake free of the PLO leader's bear hug.

Iranian Plan To Disrupt Accord With PLO Reported

TA0510163893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Iran plans to soon send to the territories cadres of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists who were trained in Iran and Sudan. They are to revive the intifadah, which would foil the arrangement between Israel and the PLO. This was reported by the Arabic weekly AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, citing a senior CIA source. Our correspondent Eldad Beck reports from Cairo:

The senior CIA official, cited by AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, bases his remarks on intelligence recently obtained by the United States and other Western countries. According to the information, Iran is preparing to send to the territories activists from the most extreme Hamas and Islamic Jihad factions who have undergone military training in Sudan and Iran. They are to carry out extensive terror acts and foil the implementation of the agreement between Israel and the PLO.

The declared Iranian aim is to prevent 'Arafat and his men from seizing control of the security situation in the territories, which would make the PLO leader fail in honoring his commitments to Israel and the Americans, which would foil the implementation of the self-government agreement. The Iranians also intend to provide generous aid to Hamas and Islamic Jihad extremists to finance their activities against the agreement.

According to the CIA official, the United States has delivered the information regarding the Iranian plans to Israel and the PLO, and U.S., Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, and Egyptian intelligence officials are holding consultations on ways to prevent Tehran and its emissaries in the territories from carrying out their plans. The Iranians, the U.S. official said, are determined to employ every possible means to foil the Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

In the coming days, Iranian Government officials are due to visit Iraq, Libya, and Sudan to coordinate the establishment of an Islamic rejectionist front against the agreement. Other U.S. experts predict the PLO, Israel, and Egypt will set up a very large intelligence and security cooperation organ to fully supervise the activities of Hamas and other fundamentalist organizations in the territories. The experts believe that, while this supervision is taking place, 'Arafat must seriously prepare for the possibility of incorporating moderate Islamic elements in the future Palestinian government in order to get them involved in the implementation of the agreement, thus neutralizing the opposition of the extreme Muslims to the agreement.

Hamas Leader Cited on Resistance Operations

TA0510153693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who is imprisoned in Israel, said today that Hamas will continue to carry out attacks against Israel in the territories. Yasin told Knesset Member [MK] Talib al-Sani' that Hamas representatives should participate in the temporary Palestinian council to be elected after the autonomy is set up.

Rabin Says Army To Continue Patrols in Territories

TA0510203293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin says terrorism does not threaten the existence of the state of Israel, and only poses a danger to the safety of individuals. With that, Rabin said Israel is doing all it can to protect its citizens. Rabin said the Army would continue to patrol in the territories and protect settlers even after the Israeli-Palestinian agreement is implemented. The prime minister was speaking with Rabbi Aharon Solevechik, a leading American rabbi, at a meeting this afternoon.

Rabin's Office: Loan Guarantee Deductions No Surprise

TA0510145593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] In the wake of the reports that $437 million have been cut from the U.S. loan guarantees, this money will now return to Uncle Sam's coffers. Here is the reaction of officials at Prime Minister Rabin's office as reported by political correspondent Shlomo Raz:

First of all, some explanations about the term fungibility, or in other words, the sums that will be deducted from the loan guarantees. Sources at the prime minister's bureau said that this deduction was part of the agreement signed between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and former President George Bush. The sources said that these reports revealed no information that was not already known.

According to the agreement between Bush and Rabin, the United States would start to deduct money from the loan guarantees at the beginning of the second year following the receipt of the loan guarantees. The U.S. budget year is about to end, and therefore, this agreement is scheduled to take effect at the beginning of the next budget year.

In other words, starting from the second year, any sums invested in settlements in the territories will be deducted from the guarantees. The officials went on to stress that the deductions were based on information sent to the U.S. authorities by Israel itself. Therefore, the Israeli Government was not surprised. It was the body that informed the United States how much money had been invested in the territories. The Israeli Government was obliged to invest these sums within the framework of agreements to purchase structures in the territories that were reached during the tenure of the former Likud government.

Bank Official: No U.S. Plan To Prompt Arabs on Boycott

TA0510152693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Oct 93 p C12

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Text] Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel said yesterday that "Israel has to exploit the favorable attitude toward it in the world in order to call for full membership in the European economic zone, which is the economic bloc made up of the EC and the European Free Trade Area.

Frenkel noted that he had received the impression that the U.S. Administration did not intend to currently pressure the Arab states to revoke the Arab boycott.

"What is clear is that the boycott is not linked to the agreement with the Palestinians. Arab states simply maintain it as a bargaining chip," the governor said.

Frenkel made the remarks in a briefing to economic journalists on his return from the annual IMF conference.

"We do not have to make do anymore with technical amendments to our agreement with Europe," Frenkel said. "We have to think about much more serious involvement in the European economy, since under the existing conditions, we can achieve more than by amending the agreements," he said.

Frenkel stressed that Israel has gained a great deal of sympathy in the international community in the wake of the signing of the autonomy accord with the PLO.

"I personally do not recall a time in which there was such interest and optimism about Israel. The link between the political process and economic forecasts is no longer hidden: The equation is clear—the peace process means economic prosperity."

The sympathy for Israel is expressed in an improvement in Israel's credit rating, the OECD's readiness to incorporate Israel in its activities, and the EC's readiness to upgrade agreements with Israel.

The governor said "governors of banks and financial institutions in the world are due to visit Israel for the first time soon.

"They now understand that if the peace process continues, it pays them to come, even if at first only "to see and be seen."

Frenkel expressed satisfaction that various states will meet their promises to grant $2.5 billion to the Palestinians as they had promised at last week's Washington conference.

"It is my estimation that there will be a need to set up a mechanism to make sure all those things will take place."

The governor criticized the fact that the Arab states did not contribute to the effort.

According to Frenkel, a large World Bank delegation is due here in order to draw up emergency plans and to prepare technical aid.

The delegation will include representatives from the EC, the IMF, the United Nations, U.S. Agency for International Development, and a Norwegian government official.

Government Sources Comment on U.S. Arms Initiative

TA0510114793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Oct 93 p A1

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Senior government sources have said that "Israel can live with the Clinton initiative to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction." They said: "We have no problem with anything in the initiative."

Israel has relayed responses to the Clinton initiative that are defined as informal, because the United States has still not called on Israel for a formal reaction. The administration briefed Israeli officials prior to the release of the initiative, and the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign and Defense Ministries have already studied the details.

President Clinton's initiative, made public on 27 September, calls for a halt to the production of fissile materials, highly enriched plutonium and uranium, used to manufacture nuclear weapons. The President said that the United States is initiating a new international covenant to cease the production of fissile materials, mentioning in particular nuclear installations currently not under international supervision.

According to foreign professional publications, Israel has production capability of fissile materials at its Negev Nuclear Research Center in Dimona, which is not under international supervision.

The Clinton initiative did not mention Israel by name and said that "in parallel with our efforts to obtain a secure, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East, we will promote dialogue and confidence-building steps to create the basis for a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction."

In so doing, the administration is in fact accepting Israel's stand, which supports demilitarizing the Middle East of long-range missiles and of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, but only after peace is achieved and secured. Israel urges starting the arms control process with confidence-building measures between the states in the region. [passage omitted]

Prince Hasan Addresses UN General Assembly

JN0610110393 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2023 GMT 5 Oct 93

["Text" of speech delivered by Crown Prince Hasan at the UN General Assembly in New York on 5 October—recorded]

[Text] Mr. President, Secretary General, Ladies and Gentlemen: I should like at the outset to extend to you, Mr. President, my sincere congratulations on your well deserved election. I would like to wish you and the other members of the Bureau success in the discharge of your important duties. I had a chance to congratulate last session's president when I saw him in Amman, and I should now like to reiterate my gratitude for his competent presidency.

Mr. President: The cold war may be over, but its death knell reverberates around the globe. The comforting ideological certainties of superpower confrontation are long gone. What have we to replace them? The new world order with its promise of peace through collective security has come upon a baptism of fire and still it would appear that no common frame of reference, no new consensus, no global ethic has emerged. As we enter the new millennium, we see the human spirit under siege as never before. Across the world, the voices of millions cry out in desperation for relief, for guidance. If we the peoples of the United Nations are to be true to our humanity, we must reappraise this situation that is of our own making. We must learn its lessons no matter how hard, and we must apply them. It is our task today and in the days to come to fashion principles and practices for a truly new world order. In all fields of human endeavor we need a new ethic for a new era.

The balance of world power politics has given way, ethnic nationalism has reemerged, a phenomenon in which the unifying bond of common citizenship is replaced by racial or religious exclusivity. As a consequence, we face a series of apparently endless wars of attrition fought to secure the domination of one ethnic nationalism over another. This trend must be reversed if our world is to be made safe from the spreading contagion of conflict. Many over the years have thought it impossible, but the Middle East is bucking this alarming trend.

The signing on September 13th of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles represents a significant step towards the achievement of a negotiated settlement in our troubled region. On the Jordanian-Israeli track, a common agenda, which has been carefully worked out over the last year and a half, has now been adopted. We trust that this will signify the commencement of serious and substantive negotiations on the various elements of that agenda with the aim of achieving just and mutually satisfactory solutions. These developments are not only a triumph for the politics of consensus, but also for the international morality which the United Nations advocates and the legality it upholds. Over the years, this august assembly has passed resolution after resolution calling for a just, comprehensive, and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question that lies at its core. Finally, the main actors are playing the leading part in shaping their own destinies.

My country has always sought to bring this prolonged and bitter conflict to an end, and in our search for solutions we have constantly aimed to reconcile peace and justice. Jordan has advocated a negotiative settlement based on United Nation's Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 longer than any other party. Under the new arrangements, all parties to the conflict are committed to the implementation of these resolutions, affirming a cardinal principle of international law—the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. There is an equally important principle to bear in mind, however. Peace cannot be piecemeal. It must be comprehensive if it is to be viable. As foreseen by the Madrid framework for the peace talks, some issues cannot be addressed by any two parties to the exclusion of others. The questions of regional security, water, and above all the refugees, cannot be resolved without direct reference to the neighboring states. The status of Jerusalem has to be determined in a similar way. The legitimate rights, which the three great monotheistic faiths share in the holy city, must be guaranteed and claims of political and administrative sovereignty accommodated to the satisfaction of all.

In view of Jordan's long association with the Palestinian question, the PLO-Israeli agreement will have major implications for our legitimate interests. At a time when new entities are formed, an orderly transfer of power and authority is vital. Only this can safeguard the rights of existing states and those of individuals. There are questions to address about state property, archives, debts, treaties, nationality, salaries, pensions. The list is long, but not exhaustive. Jordan will seek modalities for their resolution with the relevant parties through our agenda.

The refugee question, Mr. President, is of paramount importance. It should not and must not be forgotten that the individuals affected have under international law a right of return and compensation and their host countries are likewise entitled to compensation. Jordan has shouldered an enormous human load as a result of the conflict. Three waves of involuntary migrants—the refugees of 1948, the evacuees of 1967, and the returnees of 1991—have sought shelter and succor in Jordan. Our treatment of these and other displaced persons has been exemplary. We have provided them with education and health services, with jobs and welfare. Citizens of Jordan, whether of Palestinian or Jordanian origin, enjoy civil and human rights equally and participate as equals in our democratization process. Jordan seeks an equitable, sustainable international approach to the treatment of our demographic burden, for it would be unconscionable to penalize host countries for their humanitarian policies.

Another crucial issue is water. Our agenda strikes a delicate balance between the need for optimal utilization of scarce resources on the one hand, and the equally imperative need to define the rights and duties of riparian states

on the other. We also look forward to definitive delineation of our borders with Israel, thereby giving concrete expression to the right of every nation to live in secure and internationally recognized boundaries.

When the euphoria has subsided, Mr. President, these serious and complex questions will remain. The PLO-Israel accord, historic as it is, represents a first step towards Palestinian final status, which in turn will allow the Palestinians to take part in comprehensive regional security and cooperation arrangements. For the Middle East cannot be reduced to a single issue. It more closely resembles a tapestry woven of numerous intertwining threads. One of these wider regional issues—the suffering of the Iraqi people—demands urgently to be addressed. A succession of independent reports has brought to light the special impact of continued sanctions upon the most vulnerable segments of Iraqi society, in particular the children. The sanctions regime that daily takes its toll on the people of Iraq also has adverse consequences for neighboring states, including Jordan and Turkey. Issues such as this must be resolved if the Middle East is to seize its chance for lasting peace. A cooperative security system will help to protect the security of the states and peoples of the region. We can only avert the kind of destabilizing conflicts that followed the end of the cold war in Eurasia by making arrangements to ensure our common future underpinned by the full support of the international community.

Despite these outstanding questions, Mr. Chairman, I have no doubt that the extraordinary achievements of the autumn of 1993 will be seen in years to come as the start of a fresh course in the settlement of regional conflicts. The politics of dialogue and reconciliation have been our regional and domestic priorities, for they are essential to the democratic process. We seek to extend the principles of consensus and collective security to the Middle East to create a new regional order, an order which recognizes the right of each individual to lead a life free from fear, want, and despair; an order which will provide justice to all peoples and security to all states; an order in which the United Nations and its agencies can play a positive role not only in humanitarian intervention or the protection of human rights, but in active peace-keeping and peace-making.

Jordan applauds Secretary General Brutus-Ghali for his valiant efforts to overhaul the United Nations structure and personnel, injecting a fresh sense of purpose commensurate with the new challenges. It is in the interest of all members of this body to see international law respected and upheld. We must all assess the secretary general in determining the criteria for United Nations intervention whether in Lebanon, Iraq, Somalia, Bosnia, Angola, Cambodia, or anywhere else. The terms of reference embodied in Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter must be clearly defined with checks and balances approved to avoid the erosion of the independence and territorial sovereignty of member states. There is also an urgent need for well trained international peace-keeping forces which could be established under a reconstituted military staff committee. The modus operandi for all United Nations action, irrespective of the issues at hand, must be the supremacy of the rule of law and the uniformity of its application. Double standards should not and must not be permitted lest abuse of the law becomes the accepted norm.

A wider issue concerning this organization is that of Security Council reform. Jordan adds its voice to the host of countries who have called for a reassessment of the structure of the Security Council. Clearly, conditions in the world have changed dramatically since the formation of the Council and we believe that these should be reflected in its composition. Jordan also lends its support to the secretary general's proposals for post-conflict peace-building outlined in his agenda for peace. For in every part of the world, Mr. President, peace will remain illusory unless it touches the daily lives of ordinary people. Peace will not take root except in an environment conducive to regional cooperation and mutual security and committed to the welfare of individual human beings. The development of economic infrastructure and provisions for investment in public services are as crucial as the questions of territorial sovereignty, national identity, and security. It is for this reason that Jordan welcomes this recently convened conference to support Middle East peace as both timely and pragmatic. The peace-stereod end, Mr. Chairman, in my region as elsewhere, must put an end to the politics of deprivation, fear, and despair—the breeding ground for political extremism and rejection. The disparities and distortions created by half a century of conflict in the Middle East have given rise to such phenomenon that is undeniable.

However, there is considerable alarm in the Muslim world at suggestions that Islam may replace communism as a global threat. These suggestions are (?informed) by a skewed perception of Islam as a monolithic creed of violence, intolerance, and oppression. Islam, Mr. President, is not the new enemy. Extremism does exist within the Muslim world much as it exists in the Christian world, the Jewish world, the Hindu world, the secular world. But to employ reductive stereotypes which demonize one fifth of the world's population must ultimately be self-defeating. It can only result in the breeding of senseless violence that has brought untold suffering and loss of life to Bosnia rather than seeking an enemy at the (?gates). Let us each in our own communities look inwards and address the disparities and the despair that are the true causes of extremism and conflict. Let us join together to do battle with the real enemy. That enemy, Mr. President, is a new world of each for himself. That is what we must combat with all the resources that at our disposal, for the politics and economics of exclusivity are the bane of both pragmatism and idealism. Is the triple pillar of democracy, human rights, and the free market the ceiling of our ambition? Democracy and free market economics are exceptionally successful systems with noble objectives, but they are not ends in themselves. The end for which we all strive is greater peace, greater justice for individual human beings across the world. How is this to be achieved? One of our strongest defenses against the new world of each for himself would be a new global business ethic applying not

only among the developed nations, but also between these nations and the developing countries. Such an ethic might prescribe a relationship of partnership which would in turn encourage greater self-reliance. Such an ethic would be wholly reconcilable with human rights, with pluralism, with care for the environment, and with basic religious values. I would like to suggest that the key to a new ethic in all of these areas is our mutual interdependence. Whatever the context injustice is perceived and conflict results when the gap between self and other seems larger than the common ground. This fundamental split between me and you, between us and them, is the at the root of all oppositions, all polarities, all conflicts. Recognition of our mutual interdependence requires us to acknowledge the uniqueness of each individual, each culture even into the broader environment and to learn to live with the differences as with the commonalities. It requires that we strive for unity, but never seek to eradicate or compromise diversity. It requires a new thinking based on tolerance and compassion, a humane approach to the voices of others. It requires, in short, that we be true to the ideals that fired the founders of this organization when they wrote those words: We the peoples of the United Nations. Herein, Mr. President, lies the nexus between peace-making, human rights, pluralism, cultural heritage, business ethics. Here lies the key to a new world of all for each other, not each for himself.

The Middle East is showing the way. Its conflict, once held to be the most intractable on earth, is now on the path to reconciliation and healing. As we enter a new millennium, a new era, let the world take heart from our example. Let us emerge together from the past and together let us build our brave new world.

Mr. President, Secretary General, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you. [applause]

Buwayz Reports Concord in Talks With Clinton

NC0510134893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that during his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton he felt that Clinton understood Lebanon's cultural and artistic heritage as well as its economic and financial role. Clinton, Buwayz said, has a clear vision of the role a sovereign and independent Lebanon can play before and after the achievement of peace.

Buwayz said that, based on his meeting with Clinton, he feels that Washington wishes to see Lebanon restore its sovereignty over its entire territory following Israel's withdrawal from the south.

Comments on Peace Negotiations

NC0510122193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz concludes at 1500 today his five-day visit to Los Angeles. During this visit, the foreign minister held meetings with a number of officials.

Before leaving Los Angeles for Washington, Buwayz announced that the subject of the multilateral negotiations will be the problem of the refugees. This subject will be proposed during the meetings that will be held in Canada soon.

Buwayz rejected a solution to the refugee problem at the expense of Lebanon. He added: Israel cannot benefit by reaching an agreement with one party while ignoring the other. The Palestinian side is a part of the problem, but Lebanon and Syria are important parts of the problem, too. Progress in the negotiations on these two tracks could strengthen the Gaza-Jericho agreement. It could also topple the remaining barriers between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

On his and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's meetings with U.S. President Bill Clinton in New York, Buwayz said that the U.S. President has a very clear picture about the role Lebanon could play in the peace process and the following stages.

Israel's Lubrani Comments on Country's Intentions

NC0510174693 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1430 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Excerpt] In an interview with the Middle East Television, Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Lebanese affairs for the Israeli Government [as heard], has said that reports about moving borderlines between Israel and Lebanon are groundless lies. I have repeatedly said that Israel has no ambition for a single inch of the Lebanese territory, he affirmed.

As for the Israeli statement that no withdrawal will take place so long as the Syrian troops are in Lebanon, Lubrani said: Israel is discussing this issue at negotiations. It knows that there is a link between these two points. The solution cannot be determined now, but rather after a peace treaty has been signed with Lebanon.

Lubrani toured the border area today. He was received by General Ashkenazi, commander of the liaison unit in the border region; South Lebanese Army Commander General Antoine Lahd; Colonel Shlomo Hassun, chief of civilian affairs in the region; and Agriculture Extension Chief Beni Gaba'i, who briefed the visitors on the training offered to Lebanese farmers by the Israeli Agriculture Ministry in the border area and in Israel.

Lubrani took part in celebrations held in Bint Jubayl to inaugurate road building and two other projects to build a slaughterhouse and a market.

At the celebration, Lubrani said: Peace has become an existing reality. However, we still need time to convert it into practical steps. [passage omitted]

Shams-al-Din 'Confident' of Internal Stability

PM0510112493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Oct 93 p2

['Ali al-Ruzz report: "Shams-al-Din Tells AL-HAYAH: I Am Not Worried About Civil Peace in Lebanon"]

[Text] Beirut—Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has emphasized that he is not worried about civil peace in Lebanon. He said that the organizational structures of the militias have not been fully dissolved and that it would be possible to go another 15 years with the border strip still occupied and another 15 years without Gaza and Jericho.

Shams-al-Din told AL-HAYAH yesterday: "I am confident about the strength and cohesion of the internal situation and I am sure that the political forces in Lebanon have the political will to maintain internal stability but the developments of the past few weeks (the Gaza-Jericho agreement) give rise to some anxiety about possible foreign provocations—with Israel not out of the picture—to put pressure on the Lebanese Government and the Lebanese people." He urged "the Lebanese Government and Lebanese influential popular political forces to be alert to that danger and to cooperate to safeguard Lebanon against all elements of sedition."

On the presence of the militias on the Lebanese political scene and their role in disrupting civil peace, Shams-al-Din said: "We believe that the militias still exist. The state has been able to deprive them of their role and put them on the way to dissolution and disintegration under the plan to build the state, but so far the organizational structures of the militias have not been completely dissolved."

He added: "What we all warn against and seek to avoid is for some disruption to occur, similar to that I mentioned earlier, that would revive the atmosphere that would enable the militias to regain their vitality outside the framework of the state."

Asked to give his assessment of the government's performance and whether or not the present government was up

to the level of this phase, he replied: "Assessing the government and whether or not it is up to standard is a relative matter. You could ask me the same question about the Arab regimes? Without trying to undermine the government, I say that its performance has been below the level required at this stage, which is witnessing changes affecting the entire region. The government should have vision and and insight, and it should see things as they really are, seek to reinforce Lebanon, the society, the culture, and the economy and should avoid alarm and fear because fear is a big enemy that leads to concessions. I believe that the entire Arab bloc has made maximum concessions. We insist that Israel should not make geographical, political, or economic gains in Lebanon. It must withdraw unconditionally from Lebanon as stipulated in Resolution 425 which must be fully implemented. That is not open to negotiation but to implementation. The Lebanese-Israeli negotiations should only focus on ways of implementing that resolution." He added: "Without that, we frankly say that we have lived 15 years with an occupied border strip and we can go for another 15 years with an occupied border strip, and I believe that we could have survived another 15 years without Gaza and Jericho." He continued: "The first duty of the state institutions and society's forces is to preserve national unity and ensure national cohesion among the Lebanese, leaving no gaps for the enemy to exploit and foment sedition. The unity of the Lebanese people is the main prerequisite for safeguarding the state and enabling it to resist foreign pressures and Israeli blackmail."

On the spiritual summit, he said: "We see the spiritual summit as one of the main controls of Lebanese society and call for it to be made an institution. That is our target and we have made long strides toward that. It will be one of the main pillars of Lebanese society."

Shaykh Shams-al-Din believes that the Lebanese-Syrian economic agreements are "one of the achievements which must be preserved. They constitute basic requirements for the reinforcement of the Lebanese situation and for integration between Lebanon and Syria. They should be an example for all Arab states to follow. We hope that all the political forces in Lebanon will view these agreements from the angle of the integration they achieve, which consolidates Lebanon's independence and sovereignty."

More Resistance Operations Reported in South

NC0510122293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Excerpts] A resistance group attacked a South Lebanese Army post in the 'Arab Salim area with rockets and mortars. The agents' radio admitted the attack and said one agent was injured.

At about 0630 today another resistance group detonated a device on the road leading to the Israeli occupation forces' post in al-Suwayda'. The group then clashed with the post's garrison.

The areas of 'Arab Salim, Jarju', al-Jabal al-Rafi', Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and the Litani River basin came under shelling from the 155 mm artillery deployed in the occupation forces' positions in al-Zaffatah, 'Alman, and al-Shumariyah. Two houses in 'Arab Salim were damaged. [passage omitted]

At 1115 today Israeli warplanes flew at low altitudes over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah and staged mock raids, drawing antiaircraft fire.

Nighttime Attacks Reported

NC0610071993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Security sources in the south reported that four attacks were launched against Israeli and South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions last night, wounding one SLA soldier. The sources said six mortar shells were fired last night at an Israeli position near Shaqra in the central sector, causing no casualties.

Al-Shar', Christopher Discuss Ties, Peace

Remarks Ahead of Talks Noted

JN0610082793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Washington—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' called on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the State Department in Washington yesterday. During their talks, they explored ways to make progress in the peace process and bilateral ties. [passage omitted]

Prior to his meeting with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher made a statement to reporters at the U.S. State Department in which he said: I would like to welcome Minister al-Shar'. He is very much welcome as a guest in Washington. We will discuss the peace process in addition to bilateral relations.

Christopher added: I will inform Minister al-Shar' that the United States will continue its commitment as a full partner in the peace process and that it will try to help the parties to this process. I will affirm to Minister al-Shar' that the United States is committed to a comprehensive peace on the basis of the Madrid conference.

Responding to reporters' questions, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: The invitation extended to me by Secretary Christopher to visit Washington is an opportunity to discuss the peace process and bilateral relations.

Minister al-Shar' said he hoped the talks with the American side will help give momentum to the peace process, noting that Syria has clearly and frankly expressed—through President Hafiz al-Asad—its commitment to a just, comprehensive peace in the region. The foreign minister added that the United States, President Clinton, and Secretary Christopher expressed their determination to continue the peace process for the sake of a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. In light of this, he added, Syria and the United States can cooperate together to give momentum to the peace process.

Al-Shar' Comments After Talks

JN0610064593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Hisham Milhim dispatch from Washington]

[Excerpts] The U.S. and Syrian foreign ministers have affirmed their countries' determination to cooperate to give momentum to the peace process in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Responding to a question by Radio Monte Carlo following the meeting, Minister Faruq al-Shar', who expressed satisfaction with the talks, said:

[Begin recording] We, on our part, said frankly that we will not go to new rounds of talks that will not produce any results. We will not go to the talks in order to gain or kill time. Either there is peace and serious talks to achieve it, on both the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, or there will be no negotiations. [end recording]

Before the meeting, Christopher affirmed to al-Shar' that he wants to reassure Syria that the United States is committed to a comprehensive peace process in the Middle East in accordance with the Madrid conference. Al-Shar' said that Syria and the United States can cooperate to give momentum to the peace process. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: We also underscored the importance of bilateral cooperation to resolve pending bilateral issues. In general, I am satisfied with the results of this meeting, and we hope that these results will be implemented in the near future in order to help us all achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Cypriot Commerce Minister Pays Visit

NC0410195793 Nicosia CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY in English 1910 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Nicosia, Oct 4 (CNA)—Cyprus Commerce and Industry Minister Stilianos Koiliaris has had talks with Syrian ministers on ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the fields of industry and tourism.

According to an official announcement issued here Koiliaris made a stopover in Damascus on route to Iran where he will visit Tehran's international fair at the invitation of Iranian Trade Minister Yahya ol-Eshaq.

During his stay in Damascus, Kiliaris attended a reception given by Cyprus ambassador there, Konstandinos Maliotis, on the occasion of the 33rd Cyprus Independent Anniversary (October 1).

Bid for IMF Drawing Rights Increase Approved

JN0110112893

[Editorial Report] Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic on 26 September carries on page 3 a 2,000-word report on a Syrian People's Assembly discussion of draft government legislation to increase Syria's IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDR) quota from 139.1 million to 209.9 million. TISHRIN does not provide the date of the People's Assembly session.

The report notes that most speakers question the reasons and the timing of the request, asking if the measure will benefit Syria. People's Assembly Member Najm al-Din al-Salih says: "What has Syria obtained, how has the homeland benefitted from the IMF? Has the fund allowed us to get loans in the past? If so, when and how much?"

People's Assembly member Marwan Saqqal says: "I would like to explain to my colleagues that during our discussions, the government's representative explained that Syria has absolutely not benefited from any SDR. Therefore, since Syria in the past has not benefited from this fund, why are we now asking for an increase of our quota in the fund?"

Economy Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, defending the government's position, says the increase of "Syria's

quota in the IMF will increase our ability to get more loans if we want and will also increase our voting power, which is one of the demands of developing countries".

Al-'Imadi also says: "At one of the IMF meetings, the question of assistance to countries that are part of the former Soviet Union was discussed. It was emphasized that African and Asian countries have suffered from the suspension of their trade with the Soviet Union. Therefore, it was decided to give these countries certain loans if the volume of their trade with the former Soviet Union was more than 40 percent of their entire trade volume in a given year. Under these new facilities, Syria can benefit from a loan worth $140 million, because the volume of trade between Syria and the former Soviet Union for many years did exceed 40 percent. Of course, one has to pay interest on such a loan if we want to benefit from it."

Several other members argue that the IMF and the World Bank impose conditions that threaten national sovereignty. They cite Brazil, Egypt, and Sudan as examples of countries they contend have suffered from IMF conditions. "All countries that obtained IMF loans know the fund sets conditions that harm the debtor country's economic sovereignty," one member declares.

Replying to this, al-'Imadi says: "Brothers, the question of the World Bank is something else. Its loans are of another type, which we are not going to discuss here. But our stand on all this is known. We have taken loans from the World Bank to electrify the countryside. We took loans for irrigation. We took several other loans and, at present, we have many obligations to the World Bank. But, can anyone prove that the World Bank has succeeded in imposing on us one condition that harms, in any way whatsoever, our prestige or what we all agree should be part of our system or behavior?"

After the discussion conludes, the People's Assembly votes to approve the legislation.

Iran

Commentary Quashes Ruhani Remarks on PLO Deal

NC0510125393 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Sep 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Where Is the Problem—The News Agency, or...?"]

[Text] Last Thursday [23 September] an IRNA report quoting the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council [SNSC] who was visiting Austria was published in the press. He was quoted as saying: "Iran does not intend to take any action against the PLO- Israeli deal or to interfere in the affairs of the process but is not optimistic about it."

After several newspapers published this report with exclamation points, the SNSC contacted the news agency [IRNA] and the first item was killed and another report was sent by the news agency to the newspapers in which the remarks that were reportedly cited by the SNSC secretary were corrected. However, even the second time his comments were not in coordination with the official stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Meanwhile, the West's radios, news agencies, and press started extensive efforts to make it appear that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not oppose the PLO-Israeli deal! This propaganda still continues at a time when on the one hand the esteemed leader of the revolution and the respected president of the Islamic Republic of Iran have expressed the Islamic Republic's decisive opposition to the PLO-Israeli deal and, on the other, our people in several cities have organized marches in strong condemnation of the deal. These and other actions that the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken or will take means that it is not indifferent toward this issue and that it will take any possible action to prevent the continued usurpation of Palestinian territory and the conclusion of disgraceful deals that the traitors acting against the Palestinian nation's ideals make. This is the same decisive stance that His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, stated when he said: Israel should be eliminated.

In view of this reality and this revolutionary, clear, and decisive stance of the Islamic Republic the question now is: What is the meaning behind news similar to what was published on Thursday citing the SNSC secretary? Why should remarks citing an official of the Islamic Republic and that are so overtly different from the very clear stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran find their way into the mass media? The correction of the news article apparently shows that the news agency made a mistake. But such issues should not be taken lightly. The public has the right to know if the news agency was to blame for the way the item was published or if a retransmission of the item by the news agency was meant to solve a problem that was caused by other things.

Commentary Views Impending 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting

NC0610100593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Commentary by News Commentaries Group]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister of the Zionist regime, and Yasir 'Arafat, the head of the so-called PLO, will meet in Cairo and discuss the Gaza-Jericho autonomy plan and the election that will be held to choose who will implement and manage the plan.

This meeting is the first detailed formal parley between Rabin, the highest official in the Zionist regime, and 'Arafat, the head of the so-called PLO. The two shook hands during the signing of the PLO-Israel accord in Washington as a mark of friendship. But today's meeting at Rabin's request will be shorn of ceremony and will consider the details of the accord's implementation and related steps to be initiated in a week.

This meeting is rather significant: First, it is taking place while the usurping Zionist army continues its merciless killings and arrests of Palestinians whose only crime is to struggle to liberate their homeland occupied by the Zionist regime.

The Zionist regime's action contravenes international norms and regulations and the conventions of war and law that endorse the legitimate right of self-defense for nations under occupation. It also opposes the spirit of the PLO-Israeli compromise accord.

At the start of this PLO-Israeli compromise, the Zionist policy more or less reveals the future trend and is a harbinger of events.

That this meeting is convened at Rabin's behest shows which side is reaping the real benefits and which side stands to lose. Rabin does not wish to miss out on the circumstances and the opportunity accruing from the signing of the PLO-Israel accord, which has no strong base. Before grappling with the obstacles in its path, he wants to capitalize on the ill-omened atmosphere to drag other sides into the compromise. So, every Israeli-Palestinian meeting artificially resuscitates the accord, which Israel insists upon implementing.

The other noteworthy angle of the meeting is that it is being held in Egypt. Israel is seeking to shift the focus of the compromising talks from Washington to regional countries, particularly Egypt, the base of the compromising Camp David accord. Despite the strategic Washington-Tel Aviv bond, the Zionist echelons prefer to hold the talks in the region within the framework of the Arab-Israel balance of power, in which Israel has a superior position, something the greater powers want for the region, and not within the infrastructure of international rights and Security Council resolutions.

Thus, the general outcome of the meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat is more or less clear. In these talks, 'Arafat has

the role of a governor who should negotiate for his powers with the leader of an expansionist, dictatorial, and criminal regime.

Nateq-Nuri Hails Syria Stance on PLO-Israel Pact

LD0510125493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Mr. Fathi Shaqaqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Organization of Palestine, at a meeting this morning with Majles Speaker Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, described aspects of the resistance of the people of Palestine. He rejected the compromise between the PLO and Israel and considered it as a doorway through which Zionist influence can penetrate the world of Islam.

He emphasized the continuation of the struggle until the just objectives of the people of Palestine have been achieved.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri said that the Palestine issue is an ideological issue for the Iranian nation. [passage omitted] The Speaker of the Majles called on Islamic resistance groups in Palestine to clarify the nature of the [PLO- Israel] agreement for the people by means of their cultural and publicity work inside and outside Palestine. He also thanked Syria for its stance vis-a-vis the PLO-Israel agreement.

U.S. Spreading 'Biased Propaganda' About Iran

LD0510110893 Tehran IRNA in English 1009 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 5, IRNA—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in his recent meeting with foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, tried to convince them that Iran is a potential threat to their countries. The Beirut-based daily 'AL-HAYAH' in a report on the meeting said that in his talks with the said ministers, Christopher underlined the need for checking threats of both Iran and Iraq.

Experts in regional developments believe that the general policy the U.S. has adopted in the Persian Gulf region is based on keeping the neighbouring Arab countries in a constant concern about Iran by disseminating biased propaganda and spreading unfounded allegations.

Iran's efforts to establish sound friendly cooperation among Persian Gulf states has been constantly taken as a serious threat by the U.S.

Baseless allegations such as terrorism and magnifying Iran's arms purchases are all aimed to thwart Iran's peaceful efforts to establish an atmosphere of understanding and friendship throughout the region. This new U.S. step to sow discord in the region is being taken at a time when Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Jabir al-Sabah in his speech delivered at the U.N. general assembly last Friday [1 October] underlined his country's desire to improve and expand ties with Iran.

Meanwhile, in his recent speech at Johns Hopkins University, President Bill Clinton's National Security Advisor Anthony Lake reiterated that the new U.S. foreign policy with respect to the Persian Gulf region, was focused on countering threats of Iran and Iraq. He stressed that the policy would end up in political, economic, military and technological isolation of the two countries.

Experts in regional issues say the U.S. intends to resort to any possible means which could help damage Iran's relations with littoral states in the Persian Gulf.

Khamene'i on 'Lie' of Democracy in Russia

LD0610113993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Excerpt] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, made a speech this morning at a meeting with a number of Hezbollahi people, in which he strongly condemned the system of global domination and the hypocrisy prevailing in it. He emphasized the decisive and lasting decision of the Muslim and revolutionary people of Iran to stand up to the bullying of world powers, led by America.

At the meeting, which was held amid enthusiastic cheering and slogans about obeying the leadership and supporting the Islamic system, the esteemed leader said that the present-day world is enslaved by the hypocrisy of the rulers of inhuman powers. He said:

Today, the international rulers slaughter a nation in the name of peace and destroy generations under the guise of human rights. Under the pretext of delivering aid to the hungry in Somalia, U.S. servicemen have entered that country and are killing the hungry. In Palestine, with slogans of peace, they have totally deprived a nation of its rights. In Algeria, in the name of supporting democracy, they route a group chosen by the people.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said that the peace claimed by protectors of the usurper Zionist regime is a crime against the oppressed people of Palestine and clear hypocrisy.

In another part of his speech, the esteemed leader expressed his disgust and disdain for the silence of advocates of peace and human rights about the crimes of Serbs and Croats against the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said: Those who claim to seek peace and support human rights have turned a blind eye to the massacre of the Muslim people of Bosnia and the savage acts of aggression committed against them. In our view, they are liars who strive to deceive nations with their hypocrisy.

The leader of the Islamic revolution said that the West's support for the shelling of the Russian Parliament in the name of democracy was a deception and a disgraceful lie. He said: The domestic situation in Russia is no concern of ours. It is not known whether the Russian people accept the two groups fighting each other. However, to protect her

interests, America supported the faction that attacked the parliament, and called it democracy. But that is nothing but a deception and a lie.

Stressing America's inability to deceive the nations, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: International liars have made a big mistake. For they are incapable of deceiving history and nations. Undoubtedly, in any part of the world, the Islamic peoples support justice and truth and oppose oppression and falsehood. Thanks to the blessings of Islam and the revolution and enjoying global respectability, the Iranian nation has decided not to yield to the bullying of America and her allies even for a moment, and will be adamant in that decision. [passage omitted]

Velayati Meets UN Chief, Decries 'Double Standard'

NC0610074193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati met UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali and criticized the double standard of the United Nations on international crises.

According to IRNA, citing an example of this double-sided approach, our foreign minister elaborated: The United Nations agrees to sending U.S. forces in the guise of peacekeeping forces, but opposes sending Iranian forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Dr. Velayati also discussed the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict, the Tajikistan crisis, and the Somali situation with Butrus-Ghali.

The UN secretary general said he hoped the regional crises would soon be resolved with the cooperation of regional countries and the United Nations.

Velayati Addresses Nonaligned on Bosnian Muslims

LD0510113893 Tehran IRNA in English 1104 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, Oct. 5, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Monday condemned the ongoing genocide of Bosnian Muslims and urged Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) member states to deal with the issue seriously.

Addressing a meeting of the NAM foreign ministers, here for the 48th U.N. General Assembly, Velayati stressed that any peaceful solution to the human tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina should include Muslim ability to defend themselves as well as a meaningful cease- fire.

He added that lifting of the siege of cities, unhindered access to humanitarian assistance, safe and honorable return of refugees as well as the right for the Bosnian Government and people to seek and receive reparations and compensations should be also included.

Referring to the peace negotiations currently underway, he noted that the international community must force the aggressors, who have the upper hand militarily, to submit to a just and equitable solution.

With regard to the situation in Palestine, the minister voiced Iran's strong reservation to Paragraph Three of the draft communique because, "we believe that recent agreements will not lead to the full restoration of the inalienable individual and national rights of the Palestinian people and cannot be the foundation of a just solution which is the cornerstone of any lasting peace in the region."

Velayati criticized some powerful states for attempting to misuse international circles, the Security Council in particular, urging the Non-Aligned Movement member countries to resist such conspiracies. The Iranian official also appreciated the initiative taken by the Non-Aligned Movement to establish a working group to revitalize the United Nations structure and also welcomed the secretary general's "An Agenda for Peace".

Velayti concluded by saying that an indifferent attitude towards the determining role of the General Assembly as the supreme organ of the United Nations is deviation from the U.N. Charter.

President, Cypriot Minister Discuss Cooperation

LD0510193993 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 5, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Cypriot commerce and industry minister, Stilianos Koiliaris, here today.

Rafsanjani referred to the "appropriate" geographical location of Cyprus for continental and global cooperation and said "the principled stances" of Iran and Cyprus at international forums have further strengthened bilateral cooperation. He also voiced Tehran's readiness to further cement bilateral relations with Nicosia.

Koiliaris, who carried a written message from Cypriot president, Glavkos Kliridhis for Rafsanjani, in return touched on Iran's achievements and announced his country's desire to expand its eco-trade cooperation with Iran.

In another meeting with minister of culture and Islamic guidance, 'Ali Larijani, here today, Koiliaris underscored broadening of bilateral cultural exchange and tourism industry between the two countries.

He emphasized expansion of trade ties between Iran and Cyprus and said his country was ready to sign a memorandum of understanding on improvement of cultural and tourism cooperation as well as holding cutlural weeks in the two countries.

Larijani said in reply that favourable ground has been paved for promotion of bilateral cultural relations and that the two sides can have close cooperation in the fields of culture, film making, tourism industry and exchange of students and professors.

Velayati Departs for South Korea

LD0510215093 Tehran IRNA in English 2031 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, Oct. 5, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati of the Islamic Republic of Iran left here for Seoul, South Korea Tuesday after attending the 48th session of the UN General Assembly.

On his way back home, the Iranian foreign minister will pay a 3- day official visit to Seoul and hold talks with Korean leaders on bilateral relations as well as regional and global issues.

Velayati on Monday addressed the General Assembly meeting here and called for "an all-out campaign of deeds to restore world confidence in the United Nations." In his address he also dealt with a number of regional and international issues, including the problems affecting the Islamic world.

The foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) also held sideline assemblies at the United Nations headquarters where Velayati spoke and outlined Iran's stances on various world issues.

During his stay here, the Iranian minister also held talks with a number of his counterparts as well as other high-ranking world officials.

Velayati Meets Turkmen Official 5 Oct

NC0610072893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister Boris Shikhmuradov [title as heard] met our Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati in New York yesterday and described the upcoming visit by President Hashemi- Rafsanjani to Turkmenistan as an important factor in broadening and consolidating bilateral relations.

During the meeting, Dr. Velayati and Shikhmuradov exchanged views on bilateral relations, regional issues, and cooperation within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization as well as the international situation.

Arrest of Journalist, Steps Against Paper Faulted

NC0510152393 Tehran SALAM in Persian 25 Sep 93 pp 2,4

[Editorial: "Journalism and Job Safety"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Because of the special difficulties that journalism faces, the "profession of journalism" enjoys a special place in some societies. In the Islamic Republic's Constitution, "journalism" is described as being equal to "political activities" and in a bid to safeguard this profession, it states that any possible press offense must be tried in the "presence of a jury" which, in fact, is the conscience of public opinion. The "presence of a jury" is aimed at removing any possibility of the use of force by the powerful, and places the "press" under the protection of the people; and it is by relying on this protection that journalists can carry out their mission in society without being intimidated by the powerful. Therefore, one can say that the Constitution grants journalists a type of immunity similar to the immunity of the Majles deputies in carrying out their duties. [passage omitted]

However, if the conditions for press activities are there but there is no "job safety," journalism will be meaningless. A journalist who is constantly facing fear and is constantly concerned about his "livelihood and future" will never be able to bravely put in writing what he has to say and to analyze social problems, since in his bid to ensure his "job safety" he will forget his commitments and will resort either to jejune analyses or to ugly adulation. [passage omitted]

In view of the way in which Mr. 'Abdi, member of SALAM's editorial staff, was arrested and the fact that four weeks later it is still not clear what he was accused of; the approach toward some other colleagues in SALAM; and the emergence of a situation in which anyone can sue a newspaper that he does not like, the "job safety" that is necessary for carrying out the vital role of journalism in our society has been threatened and everyone is asking: If Mr. 'Abdi were not a journalist, would he ever have been arrested? Mr. 'Abdi, like hundreds of other people, could have chosen to live an easy life and have a good income on the basis of his record of struggle. But since he was considered qualified for journalism, he entered this field, thinking that he would enjoy "job safety." This is exactly the same thing that Mr. 'Abdi's other colleagues thought when they came to work for SALAM.

But are such approaches not aimed at preventing committed journalism in society? Even though in order to be able to give a decisive answer to this question we should wait to see how the 'Abdi and SALAM case will end, the threat against the "job safety" of our SALAM colleagues still shows that there are groups in society that cannot tolerate journalistic criticism and this is the reason they resort to every possible means to prevent SALAM from carrying out its duties. However, we wish to reiterate that threatening the job safety of journalists in society will only result in insipid journalism and will have unfavorable repercussions on the political- social life of our society.

External Media Broadcasts To Be Increased

NC0510083793 Tehran SALAM in Persian 22 Sep 93 pp 1-2

[Text] Hamadan—SALAM correspondent: An international image of Iran is to be created to confront the West's cultural onslaught.

For this purpose satellites will be rented and six hours of television programs will be transmitted daily to European and Asian countries.

This was stated by Jebel-'Ameli, deputy chief of the Majles and Provincial Affairs Department of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [VVIRI] at a

meeting in which the new managing director of Hamadan's VVIRI center was introduced.

Referring to the VVIRI's external services, he said: Steps have been taken to increase the external services transmitted by the national network and by the centers in border provinces. Radio programs that were broadcast in 12 languages will be increased to 18 languages and television programming will be increased from 540 hours to 1080 hours.

He also stated that Iran will be introducing an international image to confront the West's cultural onslaught. He said that satellites will be rented for this purpose and that six hours of programs will be transmitted to European and Asian countries daily.

In conclusion, he introduced Hasan Rashidi as the new general manager of Hamadan's VVIRI center and thanked and praised the former general manager for his 12 years of service to the organization.

Before being assigned to his new post, Rashidi had served as general manager of the Gorgan, Sari, Kordestan, and Bandar-e Anzali centers.

Mohammadkhan Approved as Finance, Economy Minister

LD0610111793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majles], gave its vote of confidence to Mr. [Morteza] Mohammadkhan as the new minister of finance and economic affairs. According to our correspondent's report, the new minister of finance and economic affairs was appointed with 151 votes in favor, 46 votes against, and 26 abstentions. This was out a total of 223 votes cast by the deputies participating in the voting process.

Our parliamentary correspondent's report indicates that at the beginning of today's open session of the Majles, Mr. Hashemi- Rafsanjani made some remarks and said: The new finance minister was selected on the basis of a number of criteria; that is possessing Islamic and moral qualifications, specialized know-how, strength in decisionmaking, and also revolutionary credentials. He then referred to the background, education, and experiences of Mr. Morteza Mohammadkhan, and called on the Majles to support him. The president also referred to the harmony existing between Mr. Mohammadkhan and the government and the Majles, and expressed the hope that, with the Majles' support, he will be able to fulfil his responsibilities successfully. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Acting President Addresses Nation 5 Oct

BK0510154493

[Editorial Report] Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu at 1419 GMT on 5 October carries a live or recorded 18-minute address to the nation by acting President Wasim Sajjad.

The president begins his speech by recalling his earlier address to the nation a few days after assuming the office of acting president when he pledged to hold timely elections, and expresses satisfaction over the completion of arrangements for the elections to be held tomorrow. The president then refers to the doubts about holding timely elections and blames certain "anticountry elements" for creating such an impression who wanted to create uncertainty and chaos among the people under a premeditated plan for the sake of their own interests. "They wanted to see Pakistan reeling under political instability and to create mistrust between the government and the people and stop the process of the country's reconstruction and progress in an atmosphere of political tussle and mental tension so that Pakistan would be permanently weakened." The president then thanks God that despite the attempt, the conspiracy was foiled due to the government's steps and the people's political consciousness.

Continuing, the president stresses the need for maintaining peace during the elections and calls on the people to maintain peace and order. The president, who is reading from a prepared text, then refers to the government's wholehearted efforts and steps to ensure free, impartial, and transparent elections. He calls on countrymen to fulfill their responsibilities tomorrow, election day, and urges the people to wholeheartedly take part in the elections and vote.

Noting that acceptance of the election results by politicians with an open mind and heart after the elections are completed is an important element of the election process and democracy, the president stresses the need for accepting the people's mandate with an open heart, thereby ensuring a stable government. The president says "as far as we are concerned, we do not tilt toward anyone nor do we have enmity for others. Everyone is equal and equally respectable to us. We will respectfully accept the people's mandate for leadership." The president then emphatically declares that "power will be transferred to the elected representatives without any unnecessary delay for even a moment."

In order to dispel problems which often arise during the transfer of power, the president announces the schedule for the transfer of power. He says: "I am pleased and satisfied to announce after consultations between the government and the Election Commission that the session of the new National Assembly will, God willing, will convene on 15 October. With this session, the process of transfer of power will begin. The elected representatives will take their oath the same day. Nomination papers for the positions of speaker and the deputy speaker will be submitted on 16 October and they will be elected on 17 October. On 18 October, candidates will file nomination papers for the post of prime minister and on 19 October the National Assembly will elect the prime minister and power will be transferred to the elected representatives of the people."

The president then appreciates the efforts made by the prime minister, the Election Commission, the judiciary, and the Armed Forces of Pakistan for their preparations for the elections.

The president refers to the expectations for the new government and the heavy responsibility of the National Assembly. President Wasim Sajjad then turns to relations between the government and the opposition and emphasizes a healthy and normal relationship between the two and on respecting each other. He concludes his speech by expressing the hope that the new assembly will usher in a new chapter of positive action, positive thinking, and positive steps in Pakistan's political history.

Polling Begins for National Assembly Elections

BK0610054093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Polling began this morning for electing a new National Assembly. One thousand, four hundred and eleven candidates are contesting elections for 201 Muslim seats in the National Assembly. Elections have been postponed in (?five) constituencies owing to the death of five candidates, while Maqdum Amin Qayyum of Pakistan People's Party has been declared elected unopposed in NA-166 constituency. Sixty-two candidates are contesting the 10 seats reserved for minorities.

'Heavy' Turnout Noted

BK0610081393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Smooth and orderly polling is in progress throughout the country to elect 201 Muslim and 10 non-Muslim members of the National Assembly. Reports coming in from different parts of the country now speak of heavy turnout at the polling stations after the voting picked up further momentum with the passage of time. Radio Pakistan's representatives after rounds through a number of polling stations across the country say the response of the voters at these stations is quite encouraging. They are taking enthusiastic interest in the polling. Long queues of male and female voters were seen at the polling stations.

The polling will continue up to 1730 this afternoon [1200 GMT] without any break. However, those present within the premises of the polling stations at the close of the voting time would be allowed to cast their votes.

Sajjad, Qureshi Tour Polling Places

BK0610093293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] The acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, has said the new government to be inducted into office after elections should complete its term. He was talking informally to newsmen after visiting Sayedpur polling station in Islamabad this morning. The president called upon the would-be winners and losers to exercise utmost forbearance for the sake of democracy.

Replying to a question, he said there will be no delay in the transfer of power to the new government. Replying to another question, Mr. Wasim Sajjad said the ordinance about floor crossing has been received by him and it will enforced soon. To yet another question, he said it was his desire that the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]-Altaf Group should have taken part in the elections. He said he himself talked to the convenor of the MQM Rabta [Coordination] Committee Senator Ishtiaq Azhar yesterday. Similarly, the Sindh government authorities also pursued them to end the boycott of the polls.

Radio Pakistan's representative says the president went around the polling and inquired from the polling staff about the voting. He also talked to some voters and asked about election arrangements. They expressed satisfaction over measures taken by the government for smooth and orderly conduct of the polls.

The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, has expressed the confidence that as a result of today's elections a strong and stable government will be established in the country which would provide stability in the next five years. Talking to newsmen after casting his vote in Islamabad this morning, he said it is a very important moment in the history of the country. Asked what legacy he wanted to leave behind, the prime minister replied: honesty and integrity in the government.

Mr. Moin Qureshi also visited two polling stations in Multan during a short visit this morning. Talking to newsmen he said that his first and foremost job was to hold free and fair and transparent elections and he was proud to see that this is happening now. He said now his job is to hand over power to the elected representatives and it would be done on the 19th of this month. Replying to a question, the prime minister expressed satisfaction over the polls. Later, the prime minister flew to Sukkur.

Public Vehicles Torched on Election Day

BK0610024293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] According to a press note issued by the Karachi Central District Magistrate, some miscreants set fire to four public vehicles in Nazimbabad and Gulbahar areas yesterday evening. With the help of law enforcement agencies and firefighting units, the district administration has saved two vehicles from being gutted completely, whereas two vehicles were burned down. The press note says cases have been filed against the miscreants and some evidence against certain notable personalities in this connection has been collected from near the site (?of the incident).

Qureshi Speaks on Reforms, Kashmir Issue

BK0610050693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Moin Qureshi has stressed the need to establish a healthy democratic system and giving opportunity to political leaders to play their role in promoting the political process in the country. In an interview over radio and television last night, he said the political process in the country must essentially be provided with an opportunity to progress. The prime minister reiterated that it is imperative to establish a strong and stable government in the country that can complete its

five-year term. He said a government that considers itself secure and takes decisions on vital national interests without any fear about losing its status should be formed.

Referring to the reforms instituted by him, Moin Qureshi said he wants to serve the country even better. He said he gives importance to education in the country, especially primary education and adult literacy, which are quite essential for the country. Women must be provided with appropriate opportunities to enable them play their role in the process of the progress of the country.

On the narcotics menace, the prime minister said it is a serious problem, and besides expediting cases against drug traffickers, the legislation in this regard has been made more stringent. He said in fact, now, there is a need for solid proof against the narcotics barons to take action against them within the legal framework.

In reply to a question on Kashmir issue, he said the interest of both Pakistan and India lies in resolving this issues. He said the major hurdle that hampers relations between the two countries is the Kashmir dispute. If this issue is resolved, the two countries will be able to use their resources for the welfare of their people. Moin Qureshi said India's attitude on this issue is totally negative. He said that in occupied Kashmir atrocities are being committed, there are massive human rights violations, and it is impossible to strike any aggreement on the issue under these circumstances. The prime minister said both India and Pakistan are the members of the United Nations and the UN resolutions on Kashmir issue are totally clear. He said we can resolve the issue by utilizing the strategy enshrined in these resolutions.

Earthquake Tremors Felt in Peshawar 5 Oct

BK0510063093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] The Seismological Center of Peshawar has recorded earthquake tremors of medium intensity at 0700 [0200 GMT] this morning. The epicenter of the quake was located in the PRC about 1,700 km northeast of Peshawar and its intensity was 5.2 (?on the Richter scale).

'Oslo-Style' Kashmir Talks With India Denied

BK0610095593 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Oct 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 5—Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M Khan Tuesday categorically denied reports that "Oslo-style" secret negotiations are going on between Pakistan and India on Kashmir issue. "Nothing of this sort is in progress", he told newsmen at the weekly press briefing.

He also refuted the reports that third-option on Kashmir issue is under consideration. "These all are speculations" he said adding, "I tell you categorically, neither any secret negotiations nor third option is being considered".

To a question on the reports that Indian Foreign Minister Danish Singh has offered negotiations to Pakistan. He plainly said, "no formal offer has been conveyed to Pakistan". "It is one thing to make a statement at a dinner or forum and quite another to formally ask their High Commission to convey the offer for negotiations", he said. He said there had been reports from Indian leaders that they would wait for elections in Pakistan to resume talks.

Shaharyar said there had been a great deal of discussions at United Nations on Indo-Pak relations during the recent visit of Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar. He said UN Secretary General has offered for mediation between the two countries. "We welcome this offer", he said adding that India has not yet responded to the offer. Replying to a question, he said, we have not received any specific proposals from Secretary General to resolve Kashmir issue.

On Somalia, he said Pakistan remains consistent on its commitment to perform a specific role of peacekeeping and alleviating the hardships of Somalian people. "The tragic death of our brave soldiers has not derailed us from our objective", he added. He said Pakistan troops are now much better protected in Mogadishu than the time the incident occurred. He said, most of Somalia is peaceful and people are extremely cooperative to UN peacekeepers and only clan of General Aidid is creating disturbance and violence there. He said it was a calculated effort by Aidid to undermine UN efforts.

Foreign Secretary said Pakistan had welcomed the presence of foreign observers to witness the elections and has made every possible endeavour for providing them access to the polling stations of their choice. He said, it was an ever-largest number of foreign observers who had descended here to observe the polls. He said, the foreign teams comprised the experienced former parliamentarians, ministers, MPAs [members of provincial assembly] including ex-Prime Minister of Denmark who was leading 40-member European Community team. The spokesman said, 35 members from Commonwealth of nations, 45 members from South Asian Association of Regional Cooperations, about 40 members from National Democratic Institute based in Washington and 40 members team from Iran. [sentence as published]

Formal Talk Offer Said Not Received From India

BK0510123493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan has said that Pakistan has not yet received any formal offer of negotiations from India. Answering questions from newsmen in Islamabad today, he said that there have been statements in the Indian press, as well as by Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh, urging negotiations. But, he pointed out, there is a great difference between making statements and sending a formal offer for negotiations through normal diplomatic channels.

When asked about the offer of mediation on the Kashmir issue by UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, the foreign secretary said that the UN secretary general told the General Assembly that world attention needs to be focused

on a solution to the problem. He said that Pakistan has accepted the offer of the secretary general because we welcome any effort in this regard.

Editorial Urges Washington To Implement F-16 Deal

BK0510134593 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 3 Oct 93 p 10

[Editorial: "F-16 planes—Pakistan refuses to rescind the agreement for the second time"]

[Text] Pakistan has once again refused to rescind the agreement with the United States on the purchase of F-16 planes. The Pakistani Government has told the United States to begin supplying the 60 planes as per the agreement. Pakistan has made it clear to the United States that it cannot abrogate the agreement because it has to meet its defense requirements. Moreover, it has already paid the installments according to the terms of the agreement. Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan met the U.S. authorities and told them that applying the Pressler Amendment to Pakistan is a unilateral step. He assured the U.S. authorities that Pakistan's nuclear program is for peaceful purposes and urged them to support Pakistan in securing the annual certificate from the Clinton administration testifying that Pakistan's nuclear program is peaceful. Pakistan has also proposed that these aircraft be sold to any third country if they cannot be sold to Pakistan.

The United States has singled out Pakistan to impose the Pressler Amendment. The whole Pakistani nation opposes it and would not allow the country to open its nuclear installations for inspection unilaterally.

The Pakistani Government's stand on the supply of F-16 planes is the right one. The infamous Pressler Amendment was not applicable to Pakistan when the F-16 deal was concluded. Therefore, according to the agreement, the United States is obliged to supply the F-16 planes to Pakistan. If it does not want to supply the planes to Pakistan on the pretext of the Pressler Amendment, then it should itself abrogate the agreement and not put pressure on Pakistan. Pakistan has paid for these planes. The United States should either supply the planes to Pakistan or act according to the proposal already presented by Pakistan in this regard; that is, to sell the planes to any third country and return the money paid by Pakistan. We feel that Pakistan badly needs these planes for its self-defense. The government has a strong case in this respect. We hope that the next elected government will stick to the position that the earlier government did.

Sattar Leaves New York, Comments on Kashmir

BK0510121293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr. Abdus Sattar, has said the struggle against the brutal Indian rule in the occupied Kashmir is being acknowledged in important circles at the United Nations. The minister, who left New York after leading the Pakistani delegation in the General Assembly, told APP that he was encouraged from the references to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in the annual General Assembly report and by the statements from American and European leaders. The main focus of the Pakistani delegation in the current General Assembly session was to bring to the notice of the world community the plight of the people in the occupied territory.

UN Report: More Afghan Refugees Returning Home

BK0510100193 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 5 Oct 93 p 3

[Text] The number of refugees to crossing over to Afghanistan has increased as 7,145 of them left Pakistan during September 18-24, 1993.

The number of Afghans arriving in Pakistan during the same period was 437, out of which 227 left again, says a UNHCR report.

A total of 1213 refugees in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province], Balochistan and Punjab encashed 225 pass books during September 18-24 while in the last week 302 pass books were encashed by 1656 refugees.

In Balochistan 307 persons encashed 83 pass books while in NWFP and Punjab 142 pass books were encashed by 906 persons. The figures were higher in the last week.

In NWFP, the latest monitored repatriation was 6,338 individuals during September 18-24, 1993. Torkham border remained busy during this week as 5314 were repatriated from here at the rate of 759 person daily.

At Ghulam Khan border, 175 individuals were repatriated with a daily average of 25 persons while at Nawa Pass border 849 crossed over during August 28-September 17, 1993 (an average of 40 persons daily).

The total number of border crossings from Balochistan was 807 during September 18-24, 1993. At Chaman border the repatriation was 623 individuals at a daily average of 89 while at Karwan Rah Choto border 73 persons were repatriated at an average of 10 daily.

At Badini and Oamar Din Karez borders those who crossed over numbered 43 and 68 respectively (an averages of 6 and 10).

The number of Afghans arriving in Pakistan from Kabul was recorded at 435 (32 families), of which 227 (16 families) had also been previously repatriated.

A total of 89,211 families in 1992 and 24,453 families in 1993 were repatriated mainly to Baikh, Farah, Ghazni, Helmand, Jowzjan, Kabul, Kandhar, Kunar, Kunduz, Laghman, Logar, Nangarhar, Paktia, Wadak and Zabul provinces in Afghanistan.